



WELCOME TO THE BALLROOM

no. 7 | TOMO TAKEUCHI

WELCOME no. 7 | **TOMO
TAKEUCHI**
TO THE BALLROOM

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Extra Heat

*"What if We Genderswap the Leaders
and Partners?!"*

185

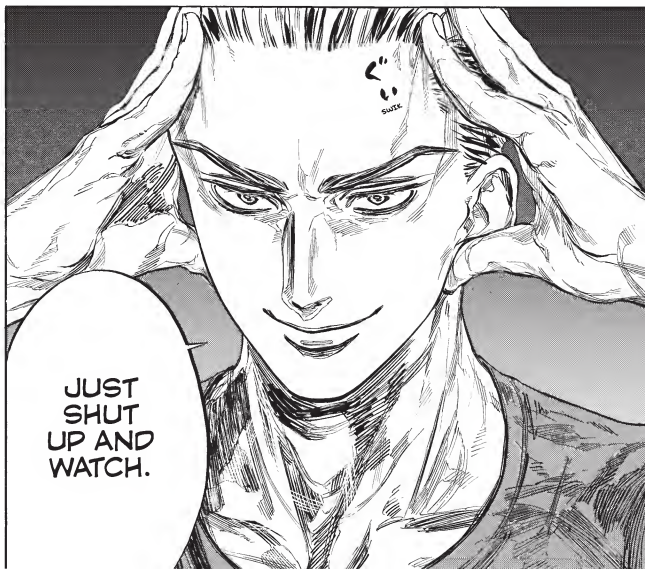
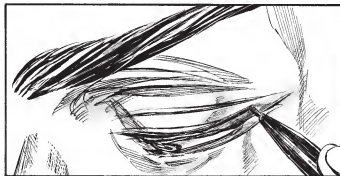


SIGN: BUDOKAN SHORIKI





TOO MANY
FRIGGIN'
QUESTIONS.



JUST
SHUT
UP AND
WATCH.



第38回 / 2014年

日本インターナショナルダンス選手権大会 JAI

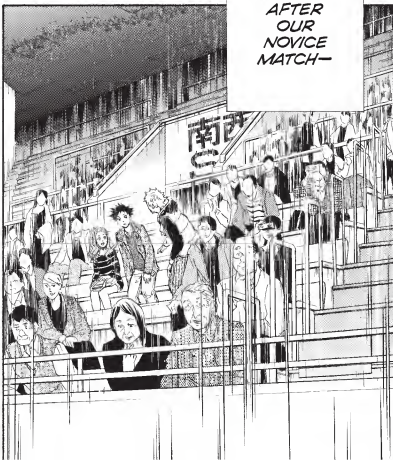
主催: (公)日本ボールルームダンス連盟 (JBDP) 後援: 文部科学省

日本武道館 ホール 平成26年6月14日(土)・15日(日)

TWO
WEEKS
AFTER
OUR
NOVICE
MATCH—



SENGOKU-
SAN CAME
BACK TO
JAPAN
AFTER A
MONTH
AWAY.

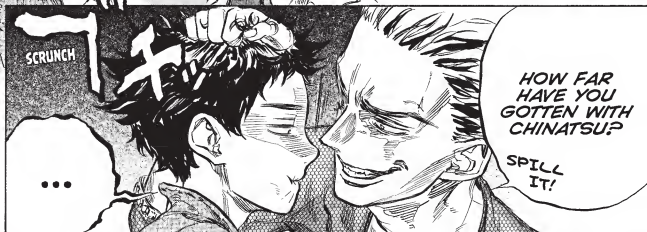








GOOD TO SEE YA.



SCRUNCH

HOW FAR
HAVE YOU
GOTTEN WITH
CHINATSU?

SPILL
IT!



FER
SURE.
TOTAL
PROS.

オーバースー
エリア
Overseas Area

WHISPER
NO WAY I
COULD GO
IN THERE
WITH THE
OVERSEAS
DANCERS...
THEY'RE LIKE
GODS OR
SOMETHING.



TITTER

WOAH,
CHECK
IT OUT!
THAT'S
NERO!



TITTER

...WE'RE
WORKING
ON GETTING
OUR BASIC
ROUTINE
DOWN.

SUCH A
SAD LITTLE
MAN.





<NO IDEA WHY.>

WHISPER
~~~~~  
WHISPER  
~~~~~



<HEY, KANAME,
TRUCACHEV WAS
LOOKING FOR YOU.>



...

I GUESS
EVERYONE
SEES THE
OVERSEAS
DANCERS
AS STARS,
NOT RIVALS...



HE'S
AMAZ-
ING!

NERO
CAME
OUT!



<REALLY?>



WHERE'S HIS
ROOM?



IS HE
GOOD?



ARE WE
GONNA
MEET VASILY
TRUCACHEV
?!



Uhh...

EVERYONE
EXCEPT
SENGOKU-
SAN,
ANYWAY...

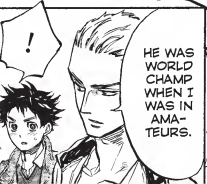


OH.

SORRY...

GRROWRRR

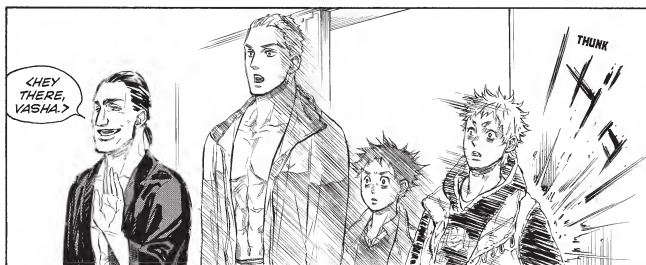
HE'S
SENGOKU-
SAN'S
BIGGEST
COMPETITION
TODAY!!



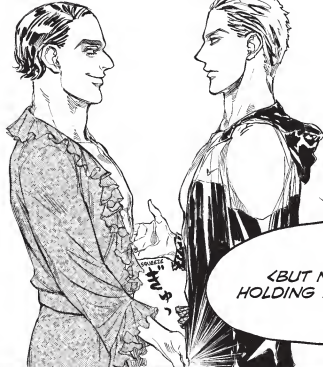
HE WAS
WORLD
CHAMP
WHEN I
WAS IN
AMA-
TEURS.

CUZ
HE'S
AMAZ-
IN'!!

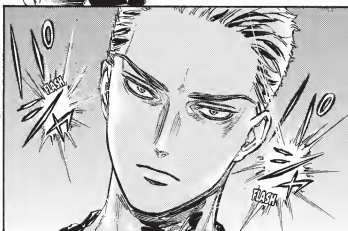
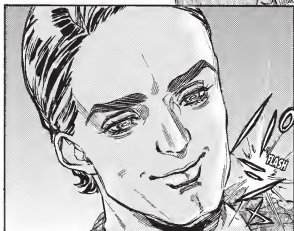
YOU TELLIN'
ME YOU DON'T
KNOW THE GUY
RANKED NO. 3
IN THE WORLD
FOR LATIN?!







◀BUT NO WAY I'M
HOLDING YOUR HAND—▶

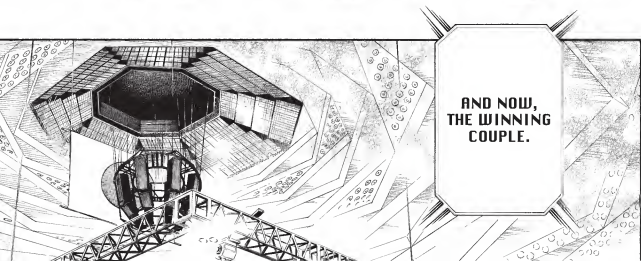


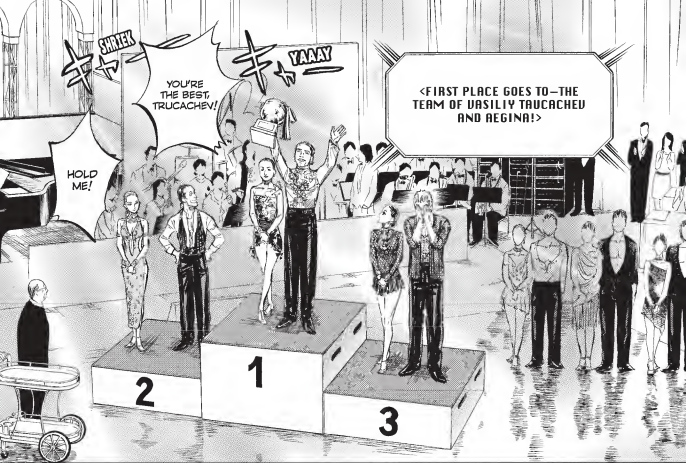
THE DOOR'S
OVER THERE,
SENGOKU-
SAN!

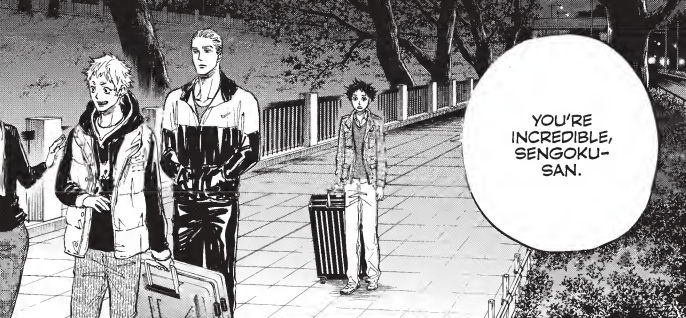
THAT WAS
TERRIFYIN'!
WHAT'S WITH
THAT GUY?!

WHAT?!

WE
LOST
GAJU-
KUN!







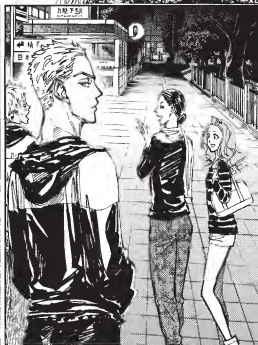
YOU'RE
INCREDIBLE,
SENGOKU-
SAN.



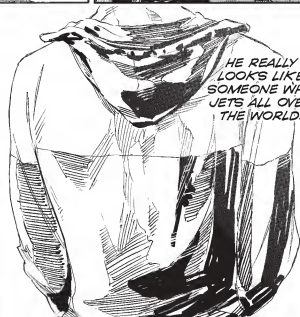
DON'T TRY
TO MAKE ME
FEEL BETTER
FOR THIRD
PLACE.



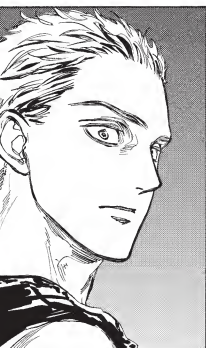
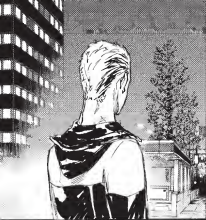
YOU'RE
SO
COOL.



SO FAR
TO GO.



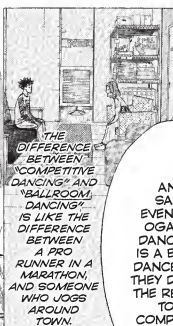
HE REALLY
LOOKS LIKE
SOMEONE WHO
JETS ALL OVER
THE WORLD.



I...DECIDED
I'M GOING
TO GET
HELP FROM
THE HYODO
SOCIAL
DANCE
ACADEMY.

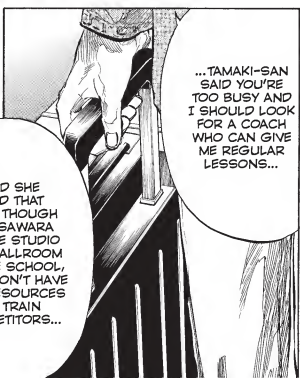


WE DON'T
HAVE ANY
COACHES
GOOD
ENOUGH
FOR THAT
LEVEL.



THE
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN
"COMPETITIVE
DANCING" AND
"BALLROOM
DANCING"
IS LIKE THE
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN
A PRO
RUNNER IN A
MARATHON,
AND SOMEONE
WHO JOGS
AROUND
TOWN.

AND SHE
SAID THAT
EVEN THOUGH
OGASAWARA
DANCE STUDIO
IS A BALLROOM
DANCE SCHOOL,
THEY DON'T HAVE
THE RESOURCES
TO TRAIN
COMPETITORS...



...TAMAKI-SAN
SAID YOU'RE
TOO BUSY AND
I SHOULD LOOK
FOR A COACH
WHO CAN GIVE
ME REGULAR
LESSONS...



I REALLY APPRECIATE HOW YOU BROUGHT ME TO YOUR SCHOOL. I'M SORRY.



TATARA...



...



NOT LIKE OGASAWARA'S ABOUT TO GO BANKRUPT. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!



I MEAN, MARISA'S A GREAT COACH. IF YOU DO WHAT SHE TELLS YOU, YOU CAN'T GO WRONG.



I'M ACTUALLY TRYING TO HAVE A SERIOUS CONVERSATION RIGHT NOW...

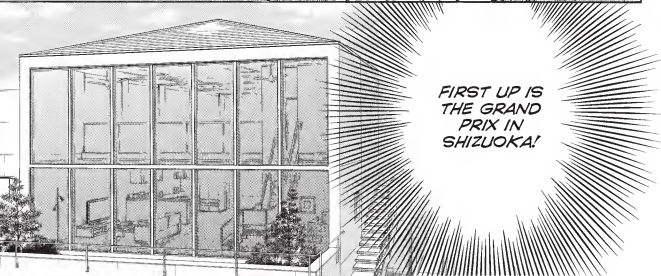
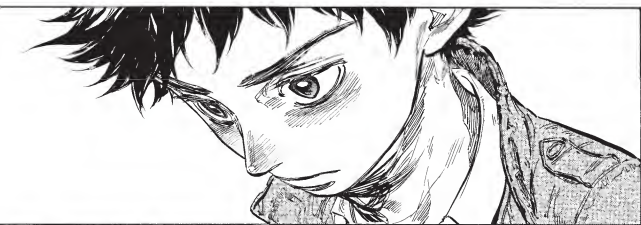


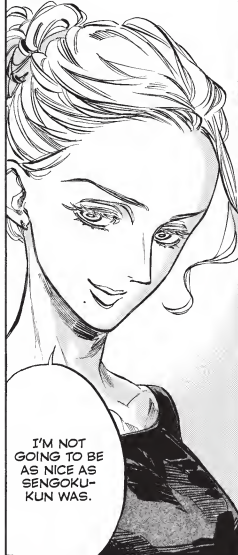
YOU TELLIN' ME YOU LIKE OLDER WOMEN?

THAT WOMAN'S GOT YOU UNDER A SPELL...





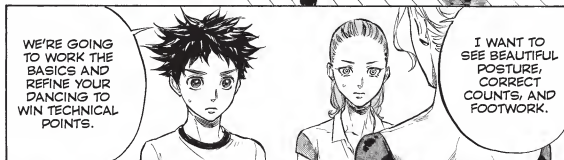




I'M NOT
GOING TO BE
AS NICE AS
SENGOKU-
KUN WAS.

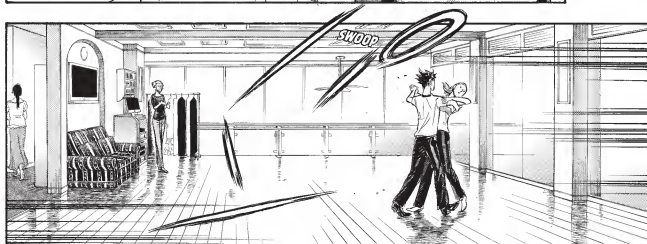


WE'RE
READY,
MARISA-
SENSEI!



WE'RE GOING
TO WORK THE
BASICS AND
REFINE YOUR
DANCING TO
WIN TECHNICAL
POINTS.

I WANT TO
SEE BEAUTIFUL
POSTURE,
CORRECT
COUNTS, AND
FOOTWORK.



EVEN WHEN YOU LAUNCH FROM YOUR TOE, YOU CAN NEVER TAKE YOUR FOOT OFF THE FLOOR.

WATCH MY FEET.

BE CONSCIOUS OF THE NEUTRAL BALANCE WHEN CLOSING.

RIGHT THERE, POINTS OFF!

YOU'RE SCRAMBLING!

TATARA-KUN— FROM THE HIPS UP, YOU'RE DELAYED!

SHOULDERS, HIPS, LEGS—THE MOVEMENT OF ALL THREE IS LINKED.

(ADVANCE ON THE TIPS OF YOUR TOES) AND ONE—

(DRAW YOURSELF INTO A BEAUTIFUL POSTURE AND...) "NEUTRAL POSITION."

(KEEPING THE TIPS OF YOUR TOES AGAINST THE FLOOR,) "BRUSH."

(PULL YOUR LEGS BACK IN LINE TOGETHER AND...) "BRUSH."

ALL THAT, IN ONE STEP?!

THERE'S WAY TOO MUCH TO DO! I CAN'T GET MY BODY TO RESPOND!!

WHAT HAVE THEY BEEN TEACHING YOU ALL THIS TIME...?

IF YOU DON'T MOVE CORRECTLY AS THE LEADER, YOUR PARTNER WON'T BE ABLE TO MATCH YOUR POSITIONING.

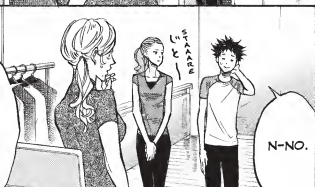


TATARA-KUN! YOU'RE JOKING! YOU HAVEN'T LEARNED ANY LATIN YET?



SO EMBARRASSING...

THAT'S INCREDIBLE! EVEN MY JUVENILES LEARN THE TEN DANCES* IN THE FIRST MONTH...



N-NO.

*ALL STYLES IN STANDARD AND LATIN COMPETITION.

SENGOKU-KUN TOLD ME TO RUN FIVE KM, DO JUMP ROPE SPRINTS, AND FOR ABS, LATS, AND BACK MUSCLES DO PUSH-UPS AND SQUATS FOR ONE SONG EACH, FOR FIVE SETS, MINIMUM... PLUS STRETCHES AND WHATEVER.

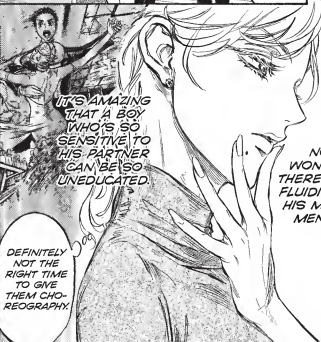
HOW MUCH BASIC TRAINING ARE YOU DOING EVERY DAY?



WOW...

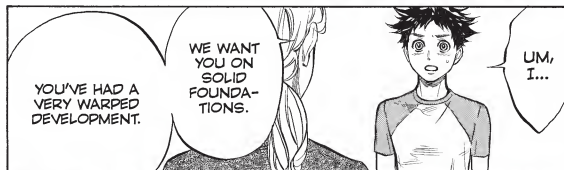


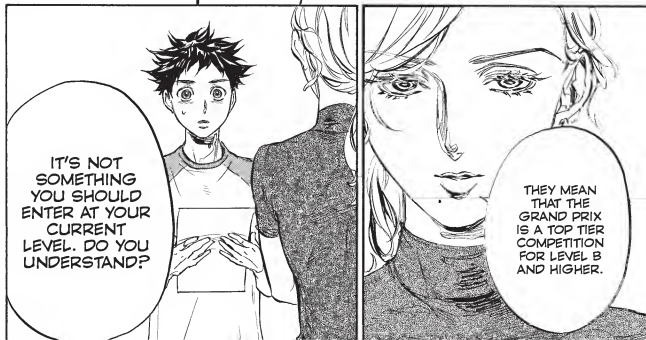
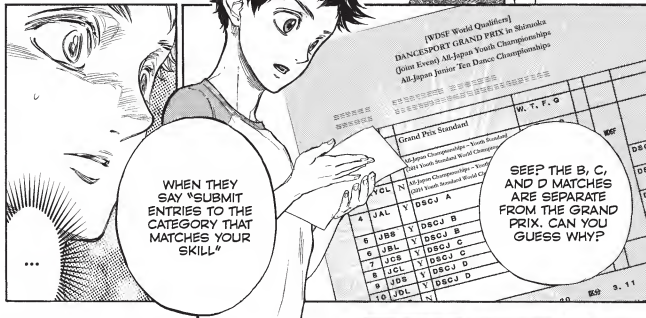
DEFINITELY NOT THE RIGHT TIME TO GIVE THEM CHOREOGRAPHY.



IT'S AMAZING THAT A BOY WHO'S SO SENSITIVE TO HIS PARTNER CAN BE SO UNEDUCATED.

NO WONDER THERE'S NO FLUIDITY TO HIS MOVEMENTS.







...YES.

...

ONE
MINUTE
TO
GO!!

YES,
SENSEI!

THESE
WEIGHTS ARE
SO HEAVY...

ENGAGE
YOUR
BACK
MORE!

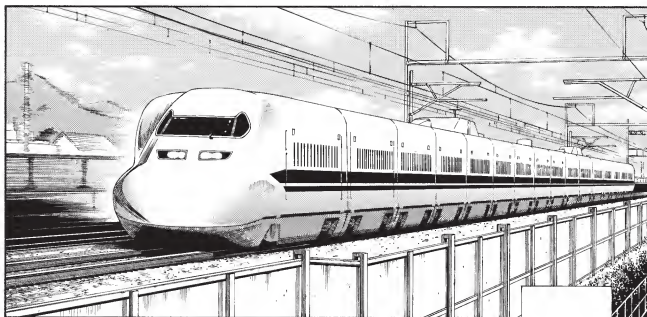
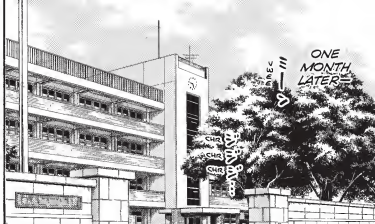
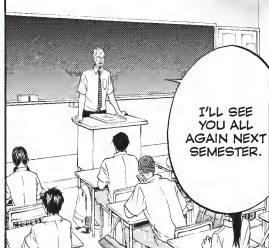
HOLD STRENGTHENING
FOR ONE SONG
(CAPPUCCINO & VEGGIES)
X 10 SETS

70%
TREMBLE 70%
TREMBLE



TWO AND
THREE!

chachacha

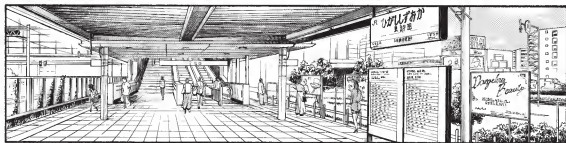


NEXT STOP—
SHIZUOKA.

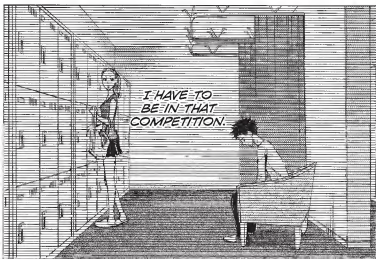
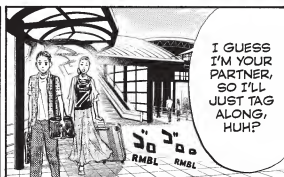
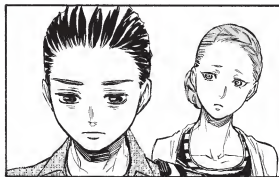
BUT YOU KEPT
SAYING, "LET'S
JUST ENTER IN
SECRET" AND
WHAT, NOW
YOU'RE...!

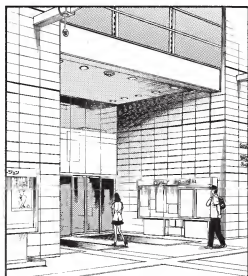
I THOUGHT
THIS WAS A
BAD IDEA IN
THE FIRST
PLACE!!

THE DAY OF THE GRAND PRIX IN SHIZUOKA

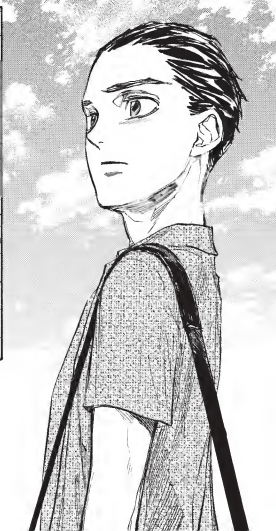
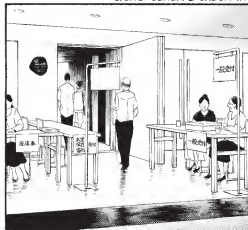


SIGN: HIGASHI SHIZUOKA





SIGNS: GENERAL CHECK-IN





HYODO-
KUN,
HANAOKA-
SAN-I'M
HERE.



Heat 27: END

WELCOME
TO THE BALLROOM



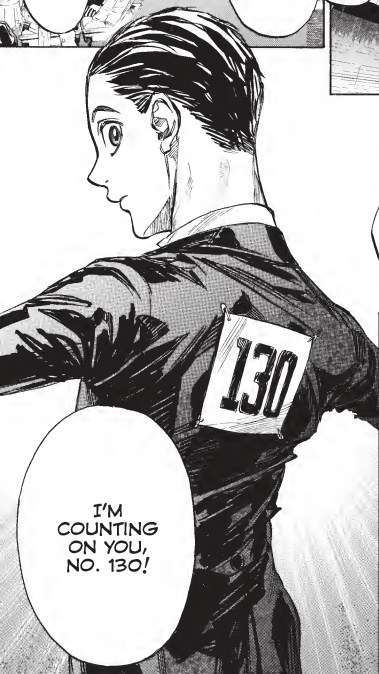
OKAY...

YOU'RE
GONNA
WRINKLE
OUR
NUMBER!

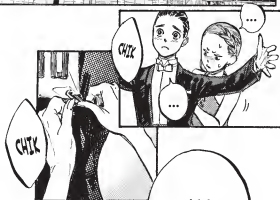
KEEP
YOUR
HOLD
STEADY.



**Heat 28
Grand Prix**

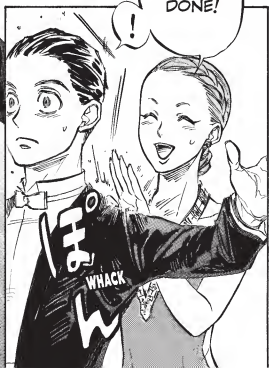


I'M
COUNTING
ON YOU,
NO. 130!



CHIK

ALL
DONE!



WHACK

MIGHT BE
SOMEWHERE
IN THIS
DANCE HALL.

HYODO
KUN
AND THE
OTHERS...

DANCESPORT GRAND PRIX in Shinjuku

7/28 DANCESPORT GRAND PRIX in Shinjuku
Time Table

#	Year	Sex	Name of Competition	Round	Type
1	1981	M	Champion's International	1st Prelim.	W - M
2	1982	M	Champion's International	2nd Prelim.	W - M
3	1983	M	1982 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
4	1984	M	1983 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
5	1985	M	1984 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
6	1986	M	1985 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
7	1987	M	1986 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
8	1988	M	1987 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
9	1989	M	1988 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
10	1990	M	1989 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
11	1991	M	1990 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
12	1992	M	1991 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
13	1993	M	1992 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
14	1994	M	1993 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
15	1995	M	1994 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
16	1996	M	1995 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
17	1997	M	1996 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
18	1998	M	1997 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
19	1999	M	1998 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
20	2000	M	1999 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
21	2001	M	2000 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
22	2002	M	2001 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
23	2003	M	2002 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
24	2004	M	2003 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
25	2005	M	2004 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
26	2006	M	2005 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
27	2007	M	2006 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
28	2008	M	2007 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
29	2009	M	2008 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
30	2010	M	2009 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
31	2011	M	2010 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
32	2012	M	2011 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
33	2013	M	2012 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
34	2014	M	2013 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
35	2015	M	2014 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
36	2016	M	2015 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
37	2017	M	2016 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
38	2018	M	2017 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
39	2019	M	2018 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
40	2020	M	2019 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
41	2021	M	2020 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
42	2022	M	2021 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
43	2023	M	2022 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
44	2024	M	2023 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
45	2025	M	2024 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
46	2026	M	2025 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
47	2027	M	2026 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
48	2028	M	2027 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
49	2029	M	2028 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
50	2030	M	2029 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
51	2031	M	2030 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
52	2032	M	2031 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
53	2033	M	2032 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
54	2034	M	2033 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
55	2035	M	2034 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
56	2036	M	2035 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
57	2037	M	2036 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
58	2038	M	2037 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
59	2039	M	2038 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
60	2040	M	2039 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
61	2041	M	2040 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
62	2042	M	2041 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
63	2043	M	2042 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
64	2044	M	2043 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
65	2045	M	2044 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
66	2046	M	2045 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
67	2047	M	2046 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
68	2048	M	2047 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
69	2049	M	2048 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
70	2050	M	2049 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
71	2051	M	2050 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
72	2052	M	2051 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
73	2053	M	2052 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
74	2054	M	2053 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
75	2055	M	2054 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
76	2056	M	2055 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
77	2057	M	2056 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
78	2058	M	2057 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
79	2059	M	2058 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
80	2060	M	2059 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
81	2061	M	2060 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
82	2062	M	2061 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
83	2063	M	2062 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
84	2064	M	2063 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
85	2065	M	2064 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
86	2066	M	2065 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
87	2067	M	2066 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
88	2068	M	2067 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
89	2069	M	2068 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
90	2070	M	2069 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
91	2071	M	2070 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
92	2072	M	2071 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
93	2073	M	2072 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
94	2074	M	2073 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
95	2075	M	2074 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
96	2076	M	2075 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
97	2077	M	2076 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
98	2078	M	2077 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M
99	2079	M	2078 Latin & Latin	1st Prelim.	W - M
100	2080	M	2079 Latin & Latin	2nd Prelim.	W - M

THE
DANCESPORT
GRAND PRIX
IN SHINJUKA
IS THE
SECOND
SITE FOR
STANDARD
COMPETITION
YOU CAN
EARN IN THE
GRAND PRIX
SERIES.
RANKINGS.

CLAS 10 7
CLAS 110 7

THERE ARE LOTS
OF CONCURRENT
MATCHES THAT
START IN THE
MORNING WITH
LATIN RANKING
MATCHES, JUNIORS
TEN DANCES,
NATIONAL YOUTH
QUALIFIERS, AND
OTHER STUFF, BUT
AROUND 3 PM...
THE FIRST ROUND
OF THE GRAND
PRIX STARTS.

INTERMISSION
TO START

OBVIOUSLY
THEY DON'T
LIMIT WHAT
FIGURES YOU
CAN USE, LIKE
IN THE YOUNG
MATCH. THE
ROUTINES ARE
UNRESTRICTED.

MAN ...
I'M
GETTING
SO
SCARED ...

WE NOW
BEGIN THE
THIRD ROUND
OF THE LEVEL
B STANDARD.

BUT NO—
THEY'RE
SEEDD
COMPETITORS,
SO THEY'RE
PROBABLY NOT
HERE YET.

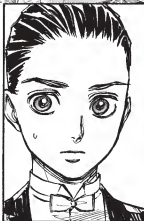


IN EVERY
ROUND, THE
DANCERS HAVE
TO PERFORM
ALL FOUR
STYLES—
"WTFQ"

NEXT UP IS
ROUND ONE OF
THE GRAND PRIX
STANDARD.



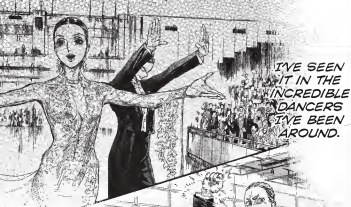
WALTZ—FIRST
HEAT.



SHE'S GOT
THE BODY
OF A GOOD
DANCER.

WOMEN
HAVE SUCH
BEAUTIFUL
BACK
MUSCLES.





I'VE SEEN
IT IN THE
INCREDIBLE
DANCERS
I'VE BEEN
AROUND.



THESE
TWO HAVE
"LEVEL B"
BODIES...

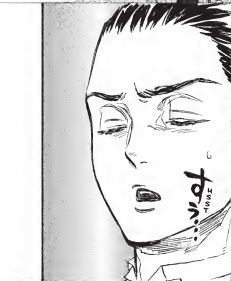


THE WAY
DANCERS
AT A HIGH
LEVEL
TONE THEIR
BODIES IS
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT.



IN THE
NOVICE
CLASS,
EVERYONE
JUST
LOOKED
LIKE
REGULAR
PEOPLE.

IT'S AMAZING
HOW
OBVIOUS THE
DIFFERENCE
IS JUST
BETWEEN
LEVEL A AND
LEVEL B.



THERE'S
A NEW
TENSION
ON THE
DANCE
FLOOR.



PORT GRAND PRIX in Shizuoka



IT'S THE
GRAND
PRIX....!



I GUESS
WHEN YOU
WIN EV-
ERYTHING
IN JAPAN,
YOU START
PRIORITIZ-
ING OTHER
TOURNA-
MENTS...



THEY HAVE
A MATCH IN
GERMANY,
SO THEY'RE
GOING TO
THAT ONE.

THEY
WHAT
...??

...BUT...



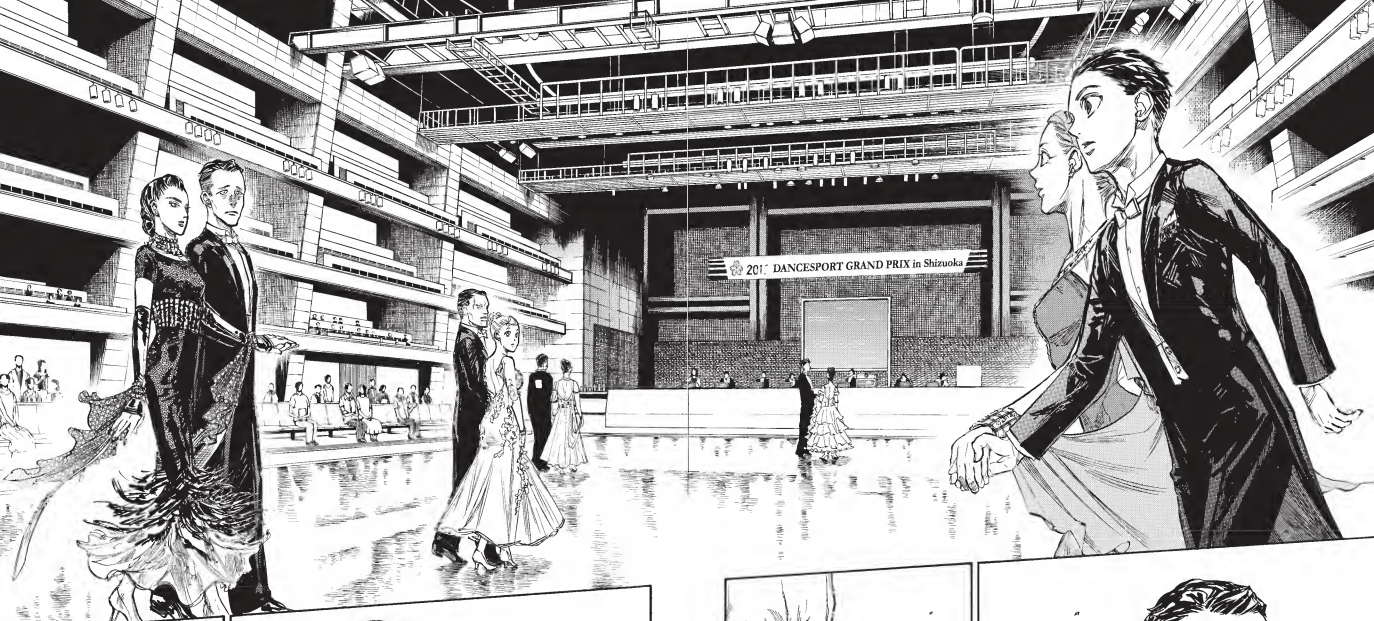
<UM, TEA WITH
LEMON, PLEASE.>

<WOULD YOU LIKE
SOMETHING TO
DRINK?>

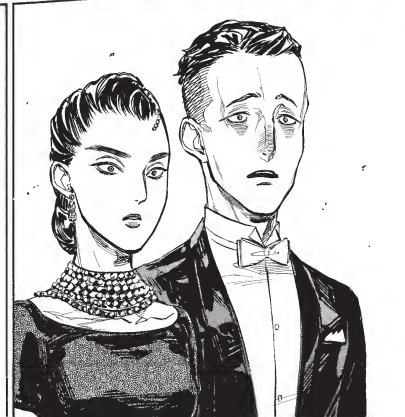
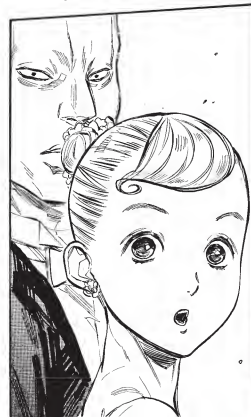
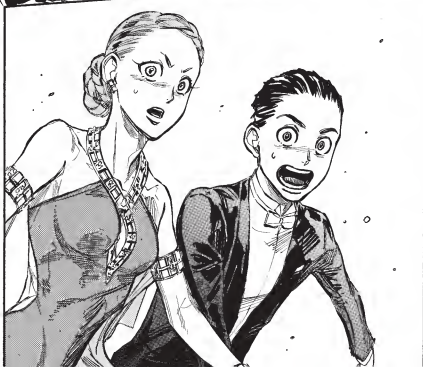
**WHY
DID SHE
WAIT SO
LONG TO
TELL ME
THAT?!**

GIMME
BACK MY
BLANKET!





WHAAAA?!





AS SOON AS
I FIND OUT
THE OTHERS
WON'T BE HERE,
SUDDENLY
KUGIMIYA-SAN
AND AKIRA-SAN
SHOW UP...?!

H...HOW
DID THIS
HAPPEN?!

MY BODY'S
MOVING
ALL ON ITS
OWN... I
HOPE IT'S
IN TIME
WITH THE
MUSIC!

THIS IS
BAD—I
CAN'T
CATCH THE
RHYTHM
AT ALL.

ACTUALLY
WAIT, WHAT
STYLE ARE
WE DOING
AGAIN?

THE THING
TO FOCUS
ON HERE
IS...

WALTZ!

...OH
RIGHT,
THE
WALTZ.



DON'T GET
MONOTONOUS
WITH CONSTANT
LONG STRIDES!
THE STEPS ARE
QUICK, THE
CLOSES ARE
LANGUID!

SWING LIKE A
PENDULUM. KEEP
THE TEMPO, AND
BE DYNAMIC.



BRING
YOUR FEET
TOGETHER:
QUIETLY,
ACCURATELY,
BEAUTIFULLY.

TAP

YOU CANNOT
BEND YOUR
KNEES OR GO
PIGEON-TOED.

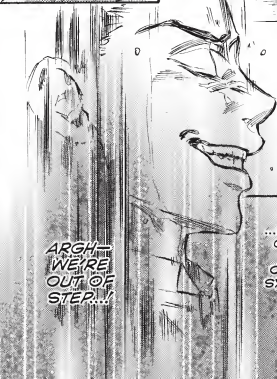
IF THE
BALLS OF
YOUR FEET*
AREN'T
POSITIONED
CORRECTLY,
YOU LOSE
POINTS.

*WHERE
THE TOES
CONNECT TO
THE FOOT

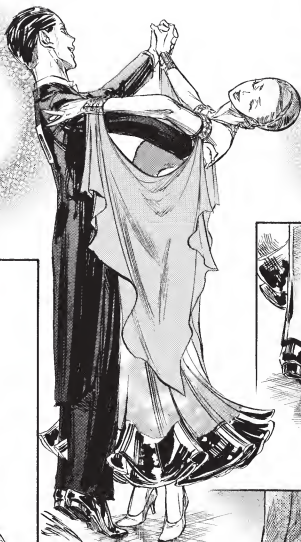
STAY AWARE
OF OUR
SPEED AND
SIZE.



THREE



ARGH—
WE'RE
OUT OF
STEP...!



TWO



...

SHP..



SCRAPE



CECE

...WE CAN'T
GET OUR
TIMING
OR MOOD
SYNCED UP.

EVEN AFTER
ALL OUR
COUPLES
PRACTICE...





I FEEL LIKE
WE ALMOST
HAVE IT, BUT...

THERE'S
SOME-
THING—

POP
711

POP

POP
711



YOU
GOTTA
LISTEN
TO THE
MUSIC.

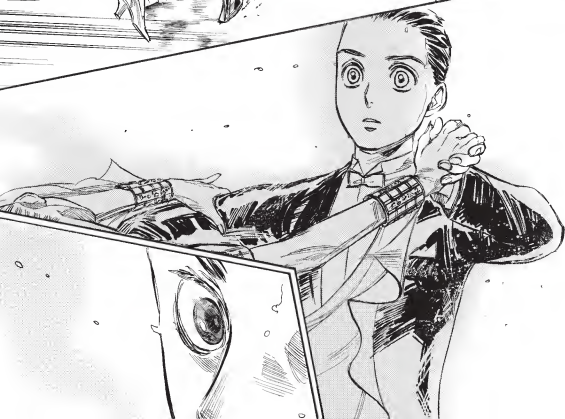
CALM
DOWN—



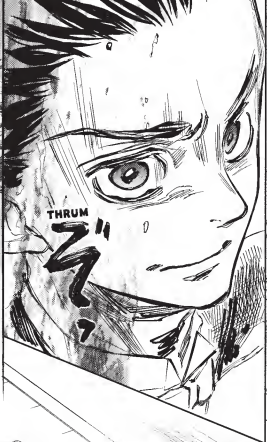
RIGHT, I
HAVE TO
STAND OUT
IMMEDI-
ATELY.



"IN THE EARLY
QUALIFYING
ROUNDS, THEY
DON'T PAY ANY
ATTENTION TO
HOW GOOD
THE LADY IS.
THEY START BY
ELIMINATING
COUPLES WITH
UNSKILLED
LEADERS."

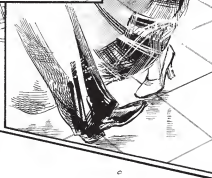
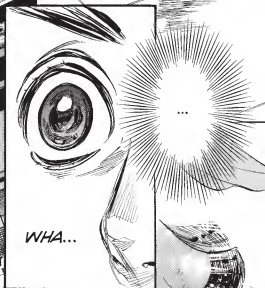






I'VE GOT A
BAD FEELING
ABOUT
THIS...!







YOU JUST
GOT TO
LEVEL
D LAST
MONTH, I
THOUGHT!

WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING AT
THE GRAND
PRIX?

CHINATSU!
TATARA-
KUN!

TANGO,
FIRST HEAT.



...NOT
YET.

OH!

DID YOU
TAKE A
SHORTCUT
TO LEVEL B
THROUGH
A YOUTH
MATCH?

HEH

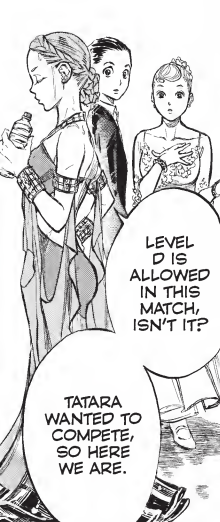
...

A-AKIRA-
SAN! WE
ACTUALLY...

YOU WERE
ALWAYS
KIND OF
SLOPPY
ABOUT
THAT STUFF,
CHINATSU!

NOT
FOR
LEVEL
CT

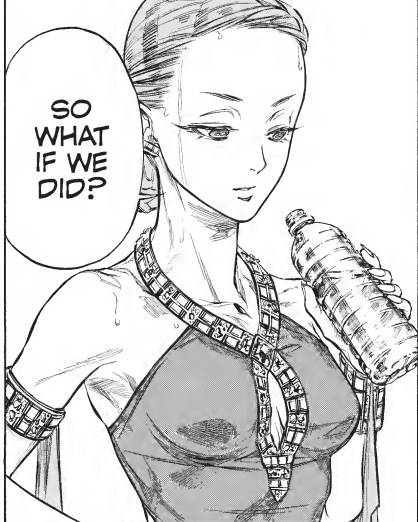
SERIOUSLY?
I GUESS
YOU MADE
A MISTAKE
WHEN YOU
APPLIED
FOR THIS
SECTION
THEN!



SO
WHAT
IF WE
DID?

LEVEL
D IS
ALLOWED
IN THIS
MATCH,
ISN'T IT?

TATARA
WANTED TO
COMPETE,
SO HERE
WE ARE.



WHY'S SHE
ACTING
LIKE SUCH
A GOOD
LITTLE
PARTNER??

I NEVER
SAID YOU
COULDN'T
BE HERE.

WELL.

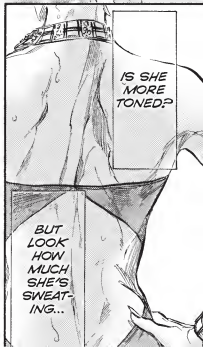


I'M NOT
QUITE
SURE
WHAT IT
IS...

HER BODY
LOOKS
DIFFERENT...

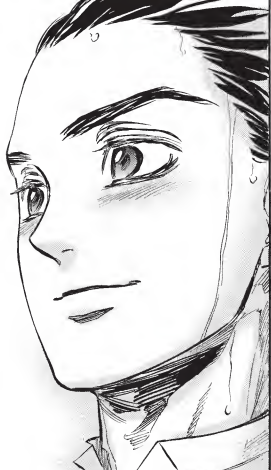


THAT'S A
LOT FOR
ONLY ONE
SONG...



IS SHE
MORE
TONED?

BUT
LOOK
HOW
MUCH
SHE'S
SWEAT-
ING...



TANGO,
THIRD
HEAT.



I'M NOT
GONNA
BE ABLE
TO SEE
THE
OTHERS—

TANGO
FACE!
ON.

IT'S NOT
THAT.

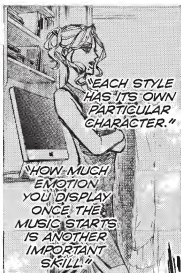
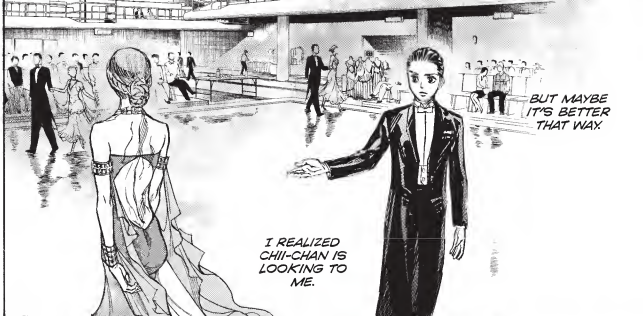
SORRY—
I'LL STOP
SMILING.

DID YOU
TALK TO
AKIRA?

WHAT'S
THAT
LITTLE
SMILE
FOR?

NO SMILING
IN THE
TANGO!







...YOU DEVOUR
THE RHYTHM.



ARGH—

DON'T GET
ANNOYED
THAT
EVERYONE
ELSE IS
SO MUCH
BETTER
THAN US.

...IT'S
TRUE.

IF
ONLY...

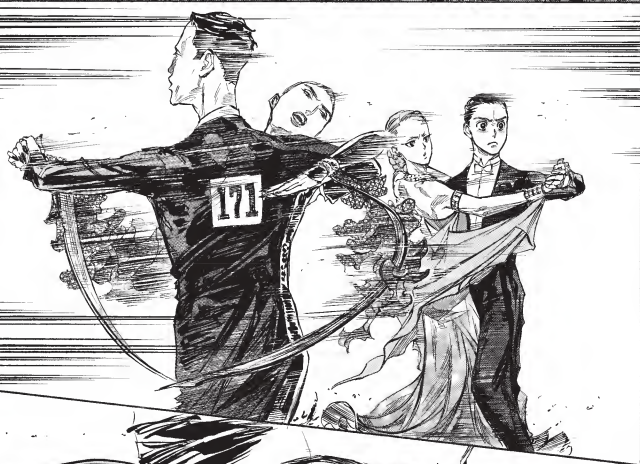


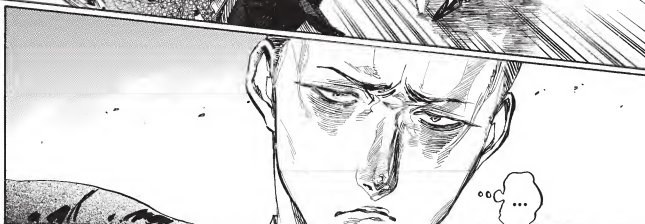
I COULD BE
AS GOOD
AS THESE
DANCERS...!

Heat 28: END

WELCOME
TO THE BALLROOM

Heat 29 Strange











I THOUGHT
HE'D
WITHDRAWN
WITH AN
INJURY.

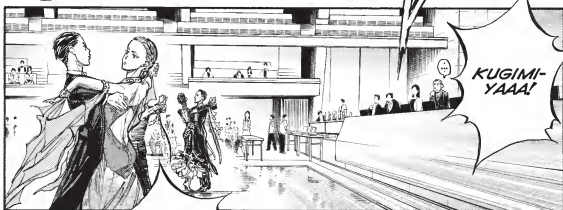
!!



!
ISN'T 171
MASAMI
KUGIMIYA
...?!

THAT MATCHSTICK
SILHOUETTE...

WHAT WAS
THAT ROUTINE
JUST NOW?!

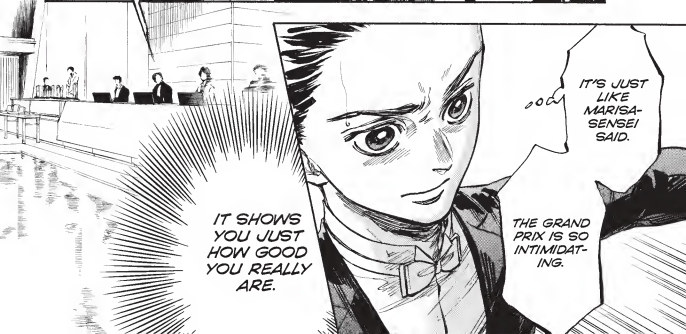


KUGIMI-
YAAA!



171!!

THESE
BASIC
ROUTINES...



IT SHOWS
YOU JUST
HOW GOOD
YOU REALLY
ARE.

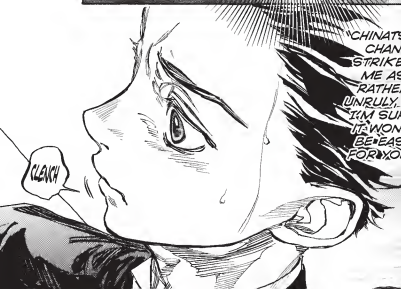
IT'S JUST
LIKE
MARISA-
SENSEI
SAID.

THE GRAND
PRIX IS SO
INTIMIDAT-
ING.



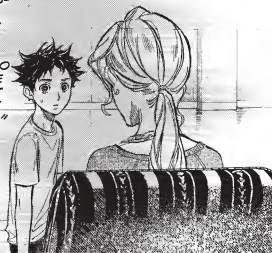
WE'RE
STILL
OUT OF
SYNC.

AND IT
SHOWS
IN THE
TANGO.



CLATCH

"CHINATSU-
CHAN
STRIKES
ME AS
RATHER
UNRULY, SO
I'M SURE
IT WON'T
BE EASY
FOR YOU."

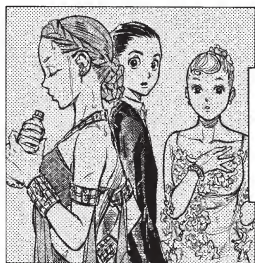




I KNOW
CHII-
CHAN'S
WORKING
HARDER
THAN ME.

SHE'S
PUTTING UP
WITH MY
TERRIBLE
DANCING...

...AND
EVEN
WHEN I'M
OFF, SHE
DANCES
ALONG
WITH ME.



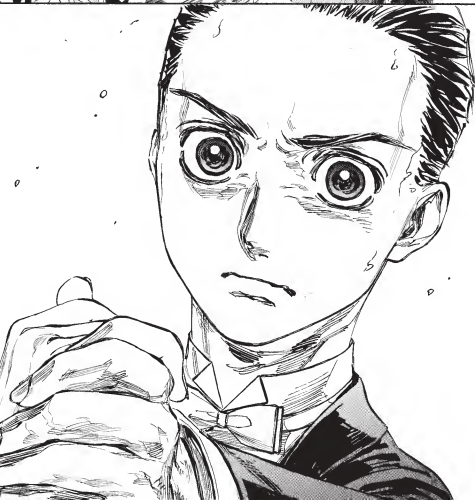
AFTER I
SAID THAT
TO HER—



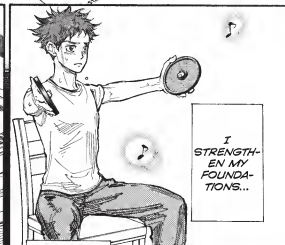
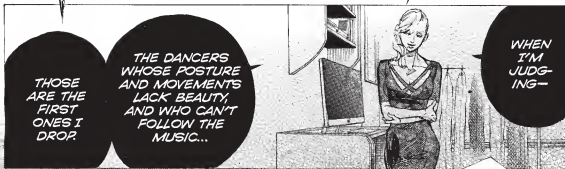
"COME
WITH ME.
JUST TELL
YOURSELF
YOU WERE
TRICKED
INTO IT."



SHE'S BEEN
LETTING ME
TRICK HER
INTO A LOT.



I HAVE
NO
CHOICE
BUT TO
TAKE US
FROM
WORST
ALL THE
WAY TO
THE TOP.





LET'S TRY
ADDING
SOME
FIGURES
TO GET
SOMETHING
MORE
ELEGANT.



YOU'LL
BOTH
HAVE TO
USE YOUR
MOVEMENT
TO COVER
UP HOW
SMALL THE
LEADER'S
BODY IS.

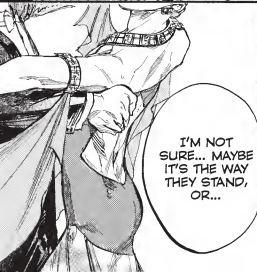


AND
ALSO--

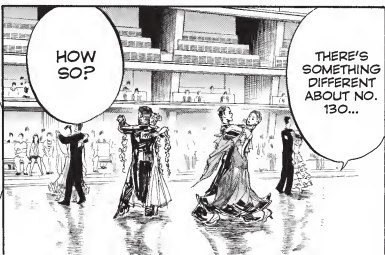


A
CONTRA
CHECK*

*ONE OF THE BASIC FIGURES



I'M NOT
SURE... MAYBE
IT'S THE WAY
THEY STAND,
OR...



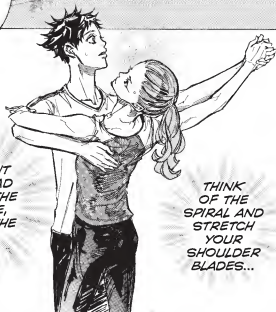
HOW
SO?

THERE'S
SOMETHING
DIFFERENT
ABOUT NO.
130...



...AND
CHINATSU-
CHAN WILL
BEND MORE.

TATARA-KUN
WILL HOLD
HIS ELBOW
FURTHER
AWAY...



AND POINT
YOUR HEAD
TOWARD THE
DISTANCE,
BEYOND THE
HOLD.

THINK
OF THE
SPIRAL AND
STRETCH
YOUR
SHOULDER
BLADES...



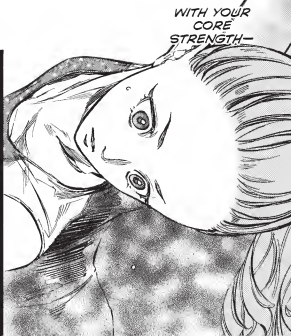
LET'S
TINKER
WITH
YOUR
HOLD.



THAT
PARTNER...



I THINK
YOU CAN
HOLD UP IN
ANY OF THE
STYLES.



WITH YOUR
CORE
STRENGTH—

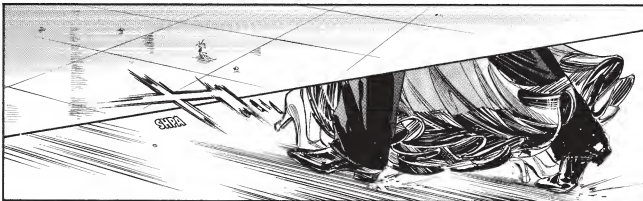
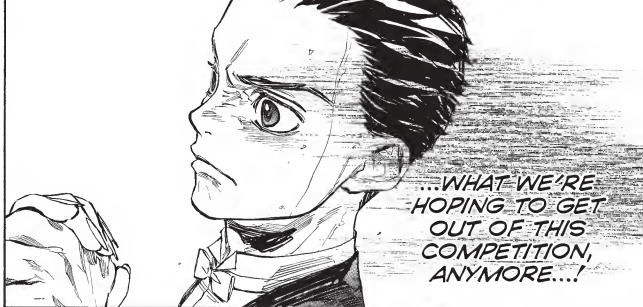


6.101

SO FAR
TO GO—

I DON'T
EVEN
KNOW...

IT'S
AMAZING
SHE CAN
JUST
STAND
WITH THAT
POSTURE.



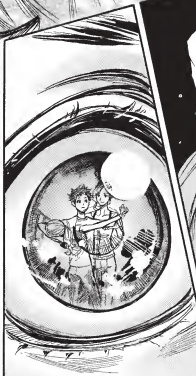


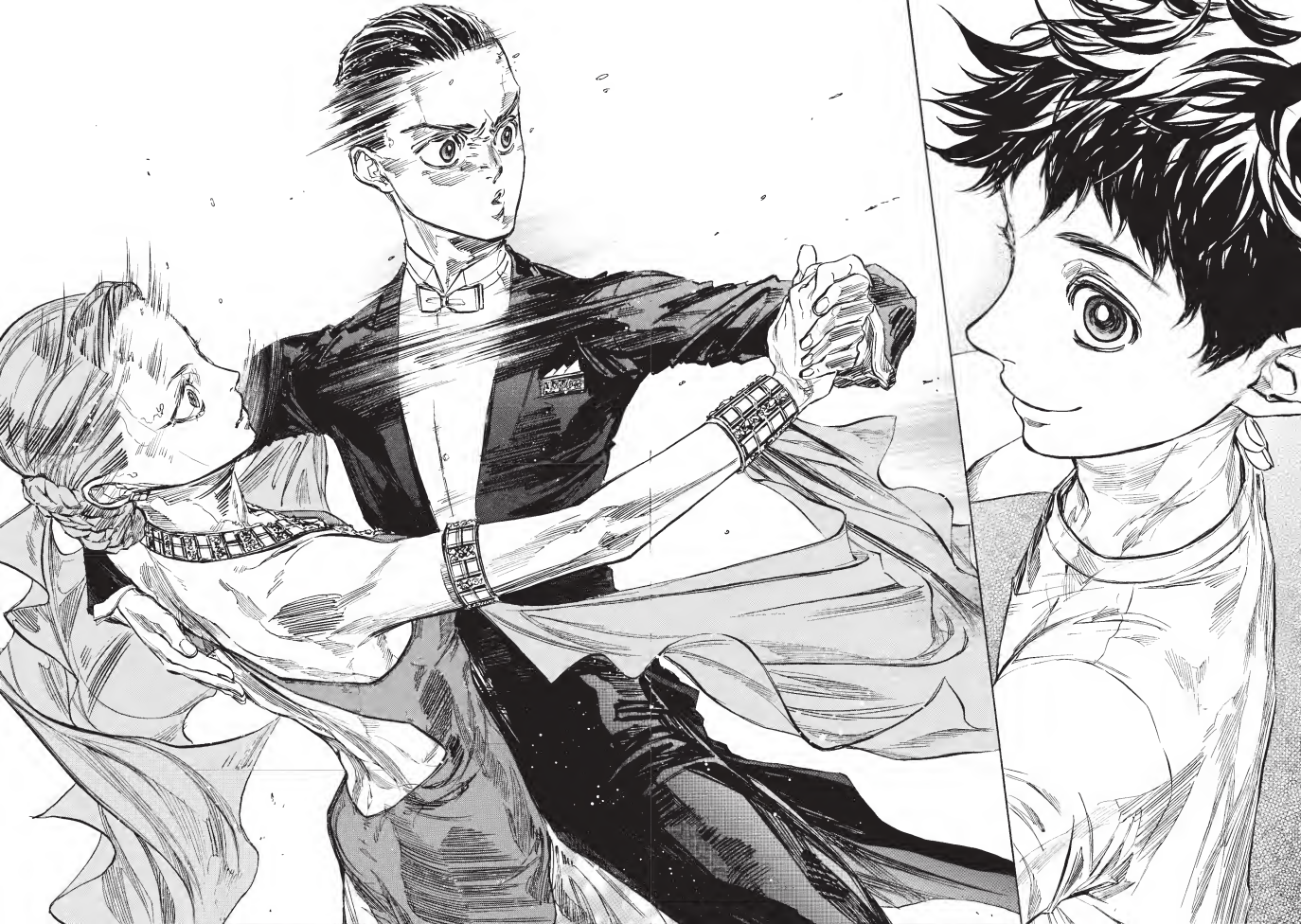
TATARA-
KUN—

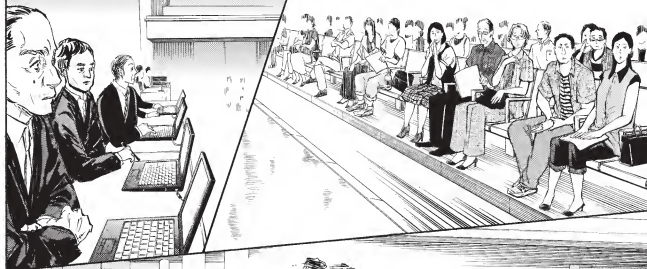
YOU DO
UNDERSTAND
THAT THE HOLD
IS MEANT TO
SUPPORT BOTH
DANCERS?

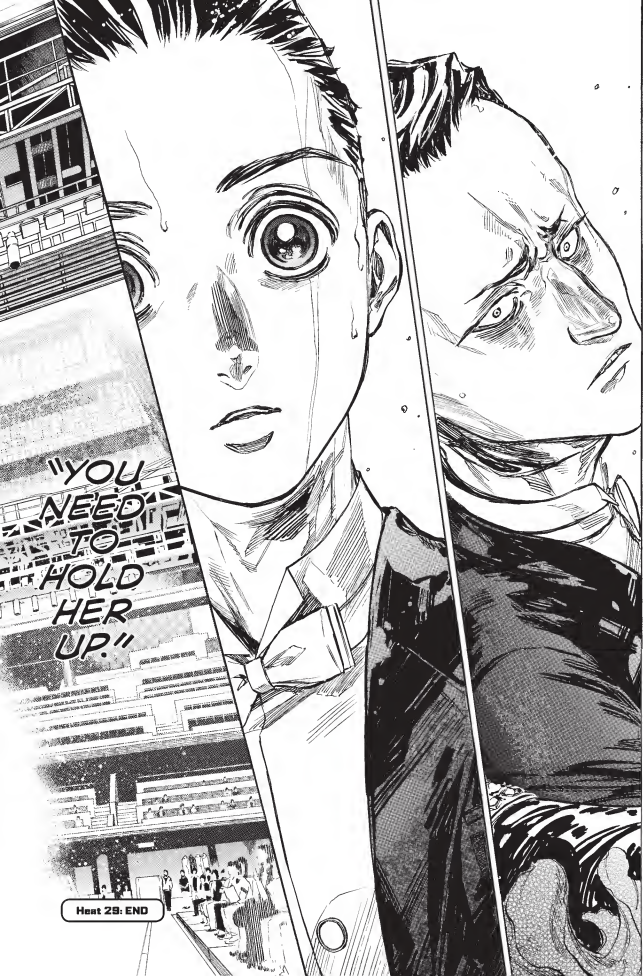
IF IT FEELS LIKE
CHINATSU-CHAN
IS LOSING HER
BALANCE...

SO...



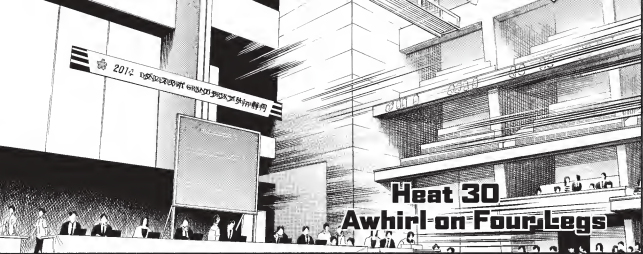




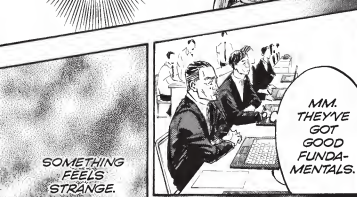
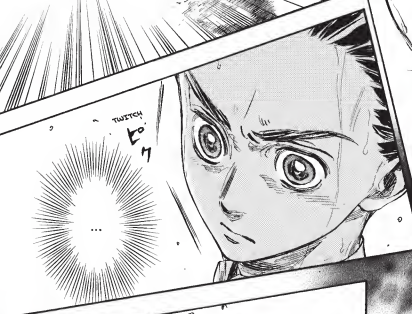


"YOU
NEED
TO
HOLD
HER
UP."

Heat 29: END



• WAIT...
THE NEXT
COUNT—



SOMETHING
FEELS
STRANGE.



HOLD
ON A
SECOND...

WHAT
THE...

WE
HIT
IT!

SPORT GRANT

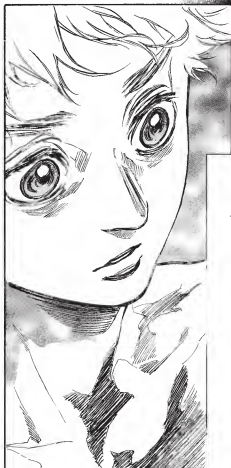
JOJO

I FEEL
LIKE I
WEIGH...

THUMP
ずし...

I DON'T
REMEMBER
FEELING
THIS HEAVY
BEFORE.

TWICE AS MUCH.



MY
PARTNER...

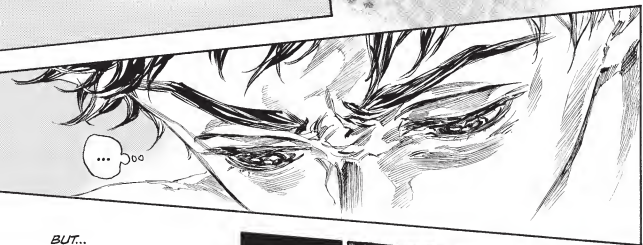
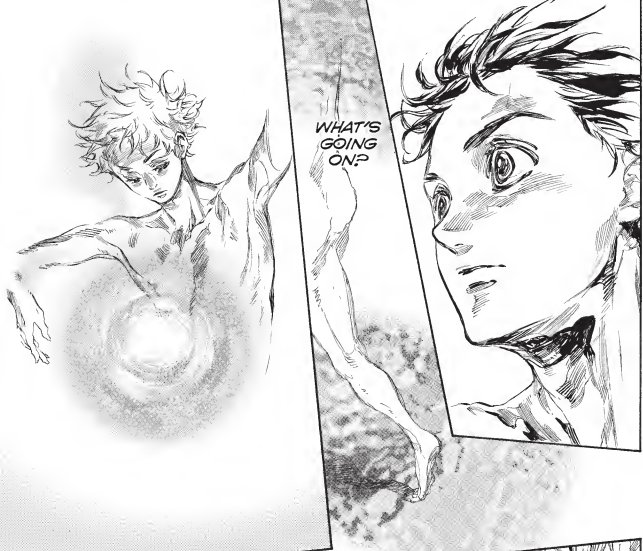




*SHE'S
GONE*

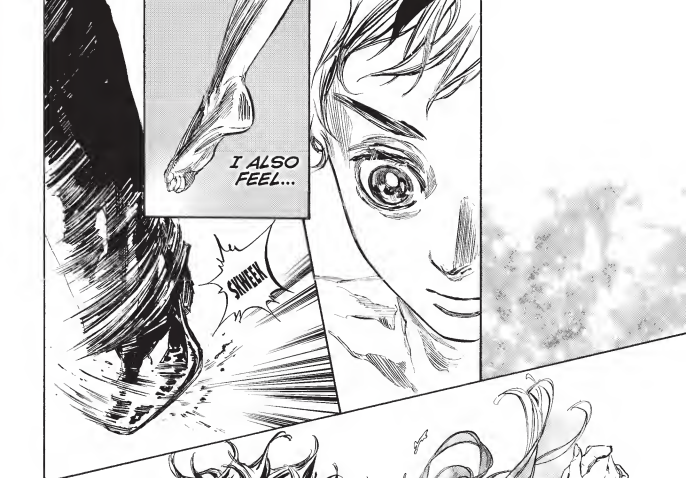
...





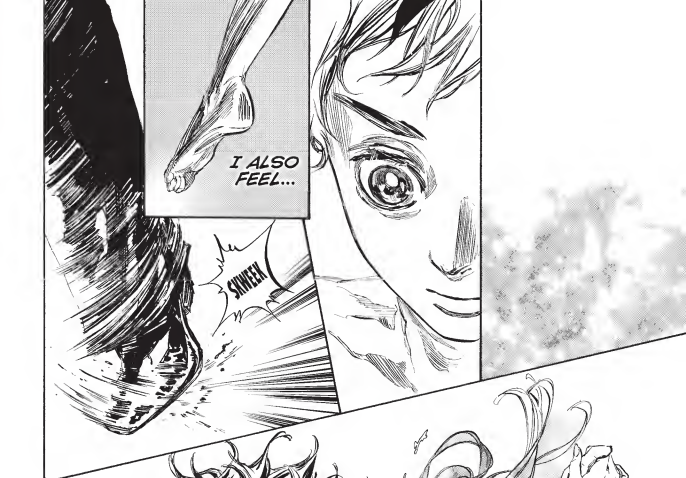
BUT...





A close-up of a horse's head on the left and a person's face on the right. The person has a wide-eyed, intense expression. The horse's head is partially visible, showing its eye and mane.

*I ALSO
FEEL...*



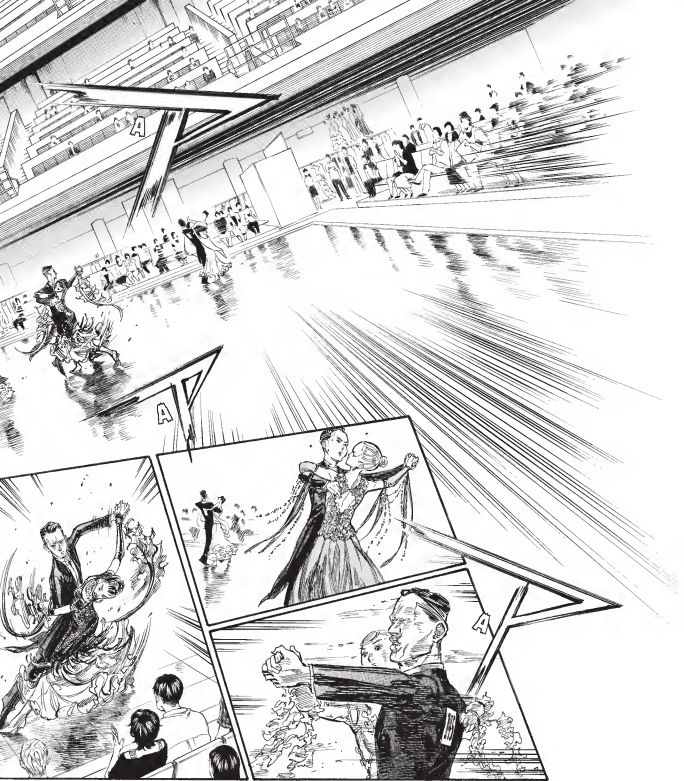
A close-up of a horse's head on the left and a person's face on the right. The person has a wide-eyed, intense expression. The horse's head is partially visible, showing its eye and mane.

SHIVER



A young man with spiky hair and a determined expression is holding a woman with long, flowing hair. The woman's hair is blowing in the wind, and she has a serene expression. The man is wearing a suit and a watch. The woman is wearing a dress and a watch. The background is a bright, hazy sky.

*...AT
PEACE.*



*JUNIOR: AGE 16 AND UNDER



THE
JUNIOR
OF 514,
I BET.

WHAT
ABOUT
145?



LET'S TRY
TO GUESS
WHO'LL
MAKE IT
TO ROUND
TWO!

MAN, NO
ONE'S EVEN
CLOSE TO
KUGIMIYA
IN THIS
HEAT.





**FORCING
ITSELF
INTO MY
VIEW...**



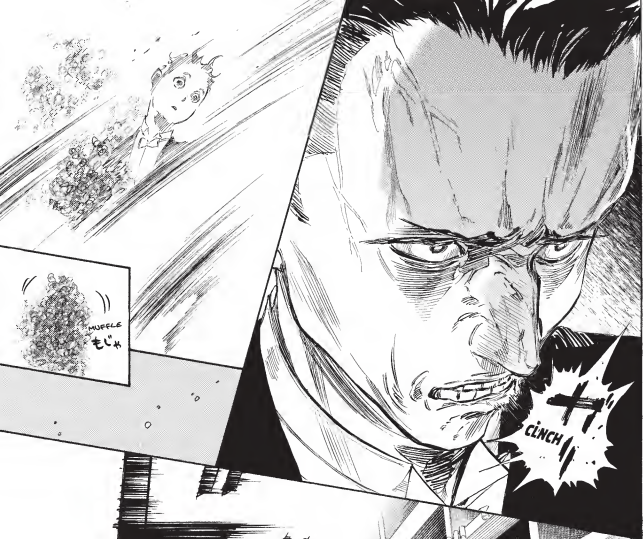
**MY FOCUS
SLIPPED FOR
A SECOND.**

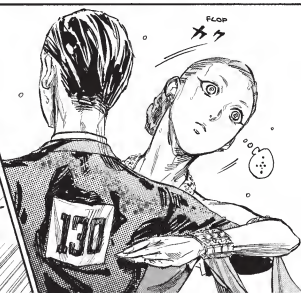
**GET IT
TOGETHER!**

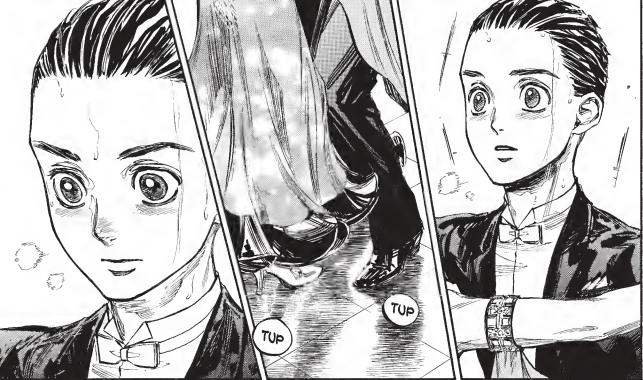


**THERE'S
SOMETHING
STRANGE...**









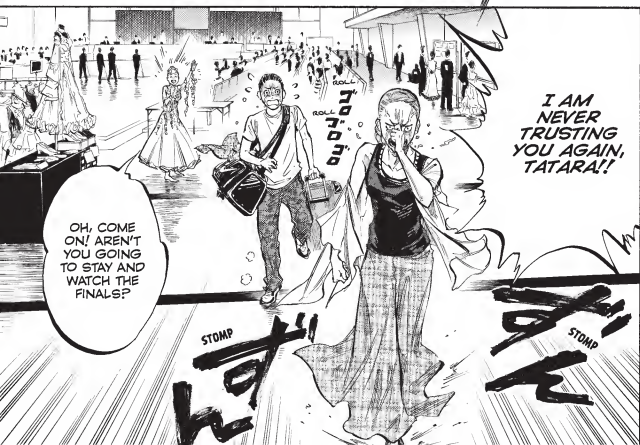
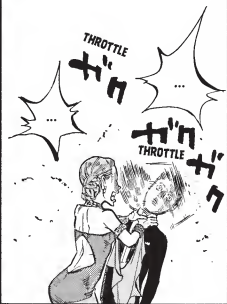




WHAT
HAPPENED
LAST
ROUND...?

汗
...





DEFEAT IN
THE FIRST
ROUND
(FORFEIT)

RESULTS OF
THE GRAND
PRIX IN
SHIZUOKA—

OH
NOOO!

OH...

MAKES YOU
WONDER WHY
THEY EVEN
BOTHERED
COMING,
DOESN'T IT?

AW, THEY
GOT INTO A
FIGHT...

IF YOU
COULDN'T
MAKE IT ALL
THE WAY TO
THE END, WE
SHOULDN'T
HAVE EVEN
ENTERED!!

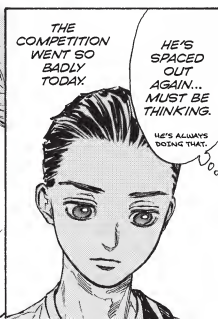
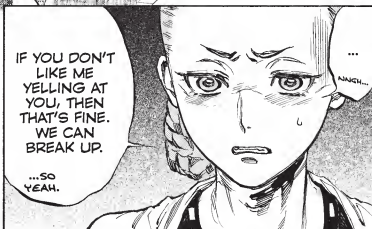
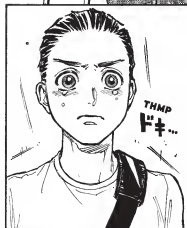
WHAT
WERE YOU
THINKING?!

CHINATSU'S
ALWAYS
HAD THE
WORST
LUCK WITH
MEN.

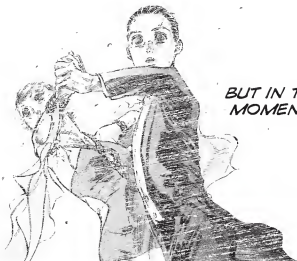
I'M
IMPRESSED
THEY
MANAGE
TO STAY
TOGETHER.

AND AT HER
VERY FIRST
GRAND
PRIX...POOR
CHINATSU.

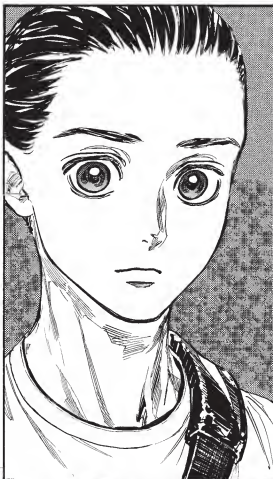
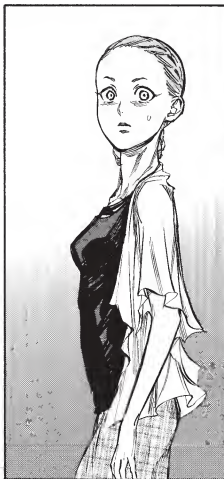
I GUESS
TATARA-KUN
IS TOTALLY
UNRELIABLE.



IT WAS LIKE HE
REALLY HAD BEEN
TAKING LESSONS
FROM A PRO
INSTRUCTOR...

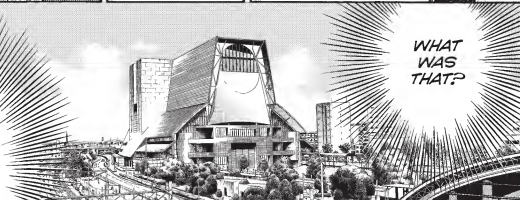


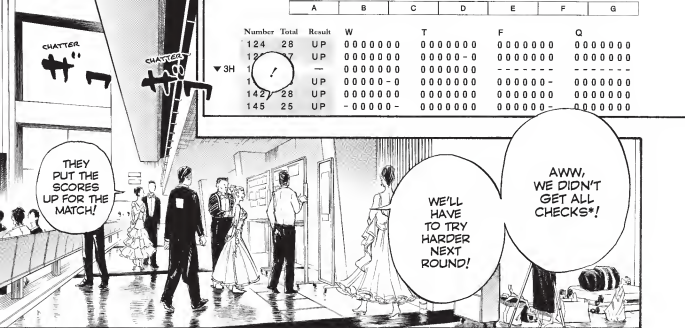
BUT IN THAT
MOMENT—



SO
CREEPY...!!

WHAT
WAS
THAT?





[SCORING - SUMMARY]

Event Division/Style										3 Heat	34 C
No. 26: Grand Prix Standard										Pick Up	24
										Check Marks	
1. Round	2. Round	3. Round	4. Round	5. Round	Semi F	Final					
A	B	C	D	E	F	G					
Total	Event	W	T	F	Q						
124	UP	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000					
129	27	UP	00000000	00000-0	00000000	00000000					
130	14	—	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000					
141	26	UP	00000-0	00000000	00000000	00000000					
142	28	UP	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000					
145	25	UP	-000000-	00000000	00000000	00000000					
151	27	UP	00000000	00000000	00000-0	00000000					
153	10	—	-0-0-0	-0-0-0	-0-0-0	0-000-					
164	28	UP	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000					

WELL, THE FIRST ROUND THEY ONLY SCORE THE LEADER, SO. NOT MY FAULT.

Number	Total	Result	W	T	F	Q
124	28	UP	00000000	00000000	00000000	00000000
129	27	UP	00000000	00000-0	00000000	00000000
▼ 3H 130	14	—	00000000	00000000	-----	-----

NUMBER 130... THAT'S TATARA-KUN...

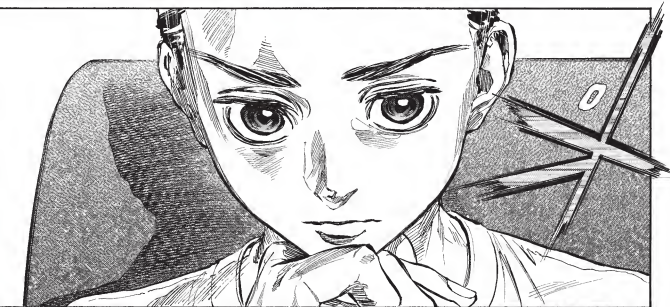
WHAT...P

THE TWO STYLES THEY DANCED IN—

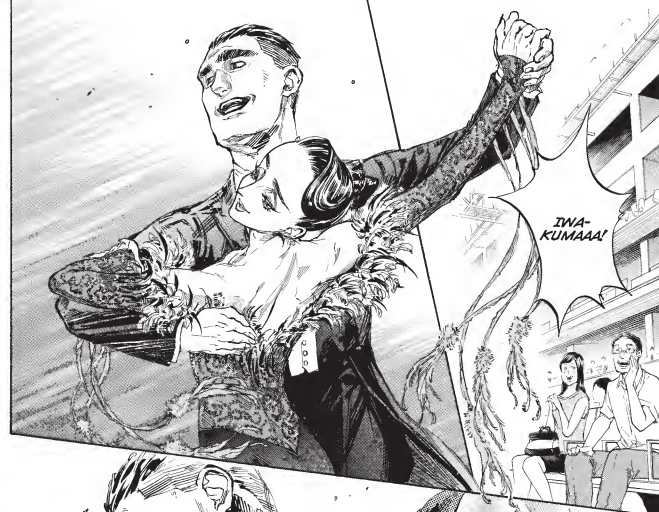
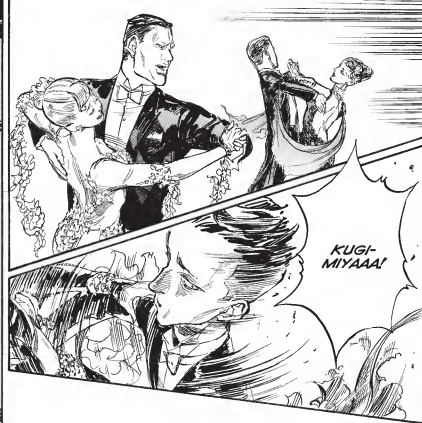
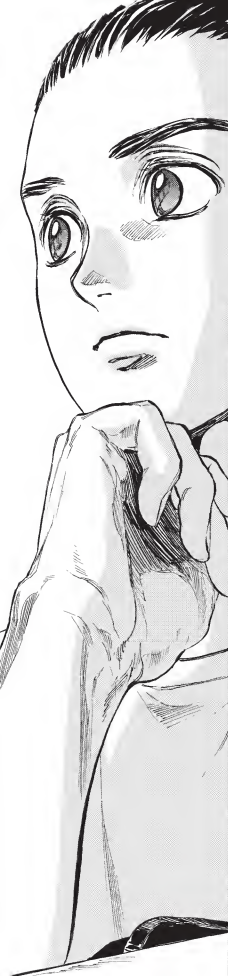


0 0 0 0 0 0 0

0 0 0 0 0 0



WE NOW BEGIN
THE SECOND
ROUND OF THE
GRAND PRIX
STANDARD.





SHOULD I BE
EMBRACING
THAT, OR
ERASING IT?

THAT
HALLUCINATION
I HAD,
DANCING ON
FOUR LEGS—

Heat 3D: END

Heat 3D: END

WELCOME
TO THE BALLROOM

C'MON,
LET'S
SEE YOU
DANCE.

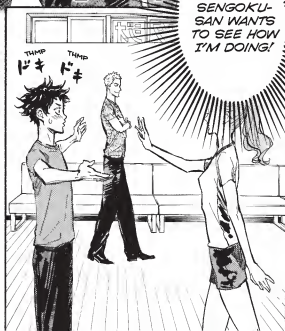
NO GETTIN' OUT
OF IT!

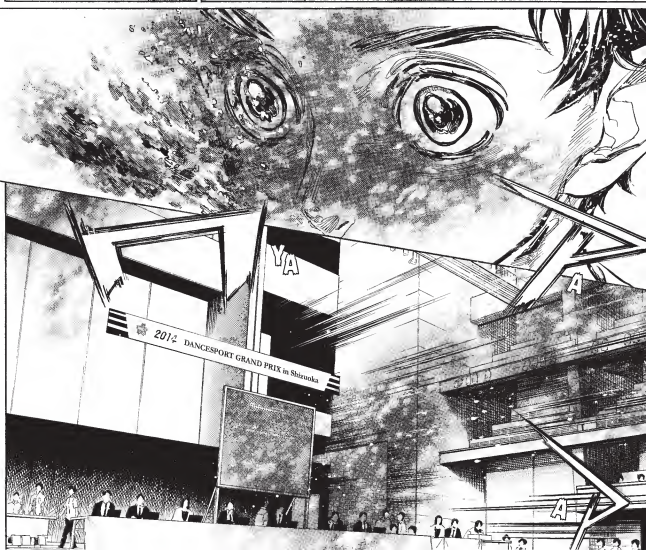
WELL? HAVE
YOU GOTTEN
ANY BETTER,
TATARA?

!!
THANKS
FOR
ASKING!

Heat 31 Karuizawa Training Camp

S-
SENGOKU-
SAN WANTS
TO SEE HOW
I'M DOING!







SENGOKU-SAN, HELP ME!

SENGOKU-SAN!!



BWOF



STMP

STMP

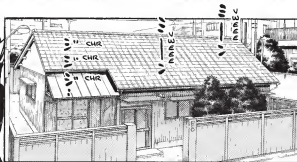
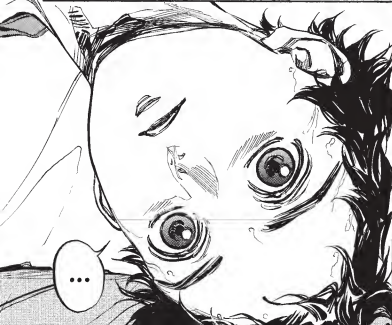


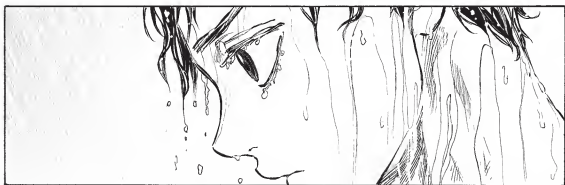
NNGH!

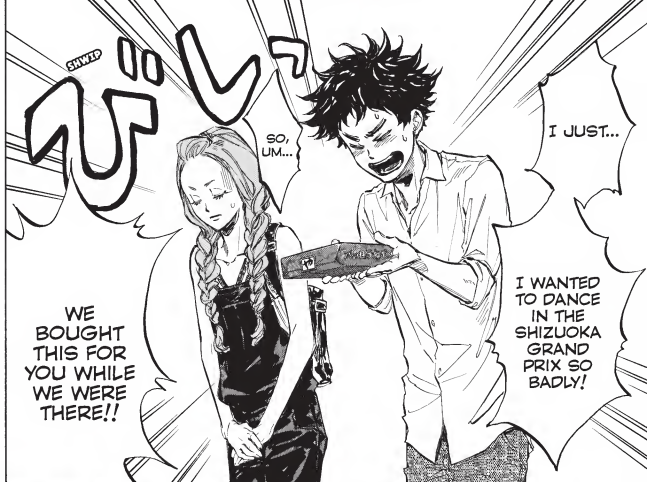


YAP

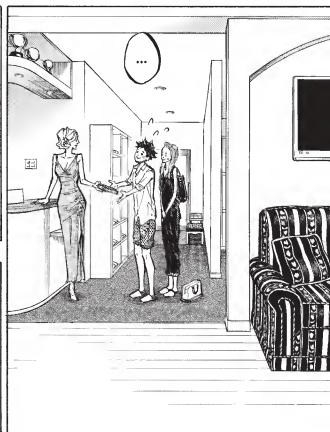
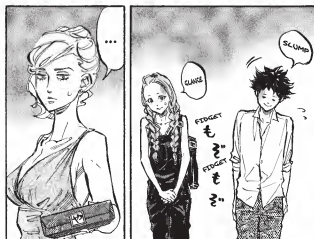
YAP

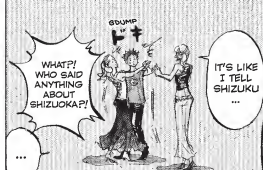






BOX: LAMPREY EEL





WHAT?!
WHO SAID
ANYTHING
ABOUT
SHIZUOKA?!

IT'S LIKE
I TELL
SHIZUKU
...

IN FACT,
YOU'RE
RAATHER
NAÏVE IF YOU
THOUGHT
YOU WERE
HIDING
ANYTHING
FROM ME.

YOU CAN'T FOOL
GROWN-UPS.

?!
I DIDN'T
NEED YOU
TO TELL
ME THAT. I
ALREADY
KNEW.



ME
TOO...

OH! SORRY,
I'M BUSY ON
JULY 28...

LET ME
FINISH,
WILL YAP?

SO
YOUR
NEXT
LESSON
WILL
BE...

BESIDES, I'M
INVOLVED WITH
ORGANIZING
THE BIG
COMPETITIONS.
DID YOU THINK
I WOULDN'T
GET ANY NEWS
ABOUT IT?

THE LIST OF
DANCERS WAS ON THE
INTERNET, TATA-KUN.



WHY'D
YOU GET
ME THIS,
ANYWAY?

すず
お宝
お宝



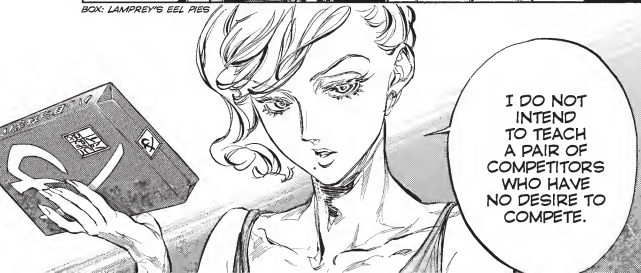
WHAT DO YOU
THINK THE
COMPETITIONS
ARE FOR?

AND THEN
FORFEITED?

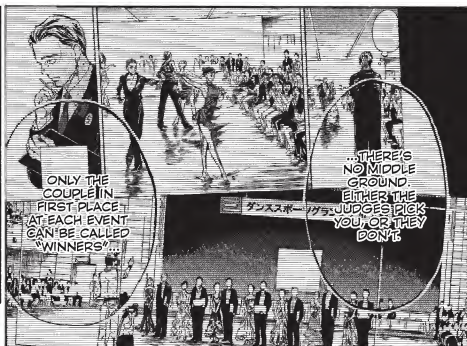
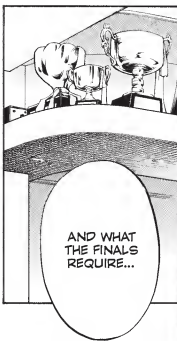
YOU
THOUGHT
YOU
WERE
GOOD
ENOUGH
TO
ENTER?

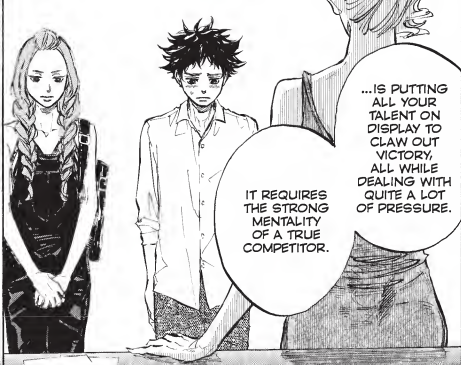
SO—
WHAT?

BOX: LAMPREY'S EEL PIES



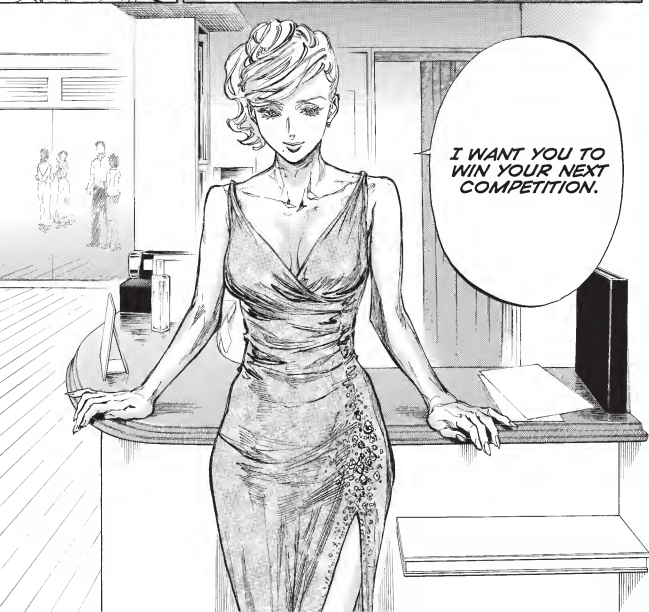
I DO NOT
INTEND
TO TEACH
A PAIR OF
COMPETITORS
WHO HAVE
NO DESIRE TO
COMPETE.



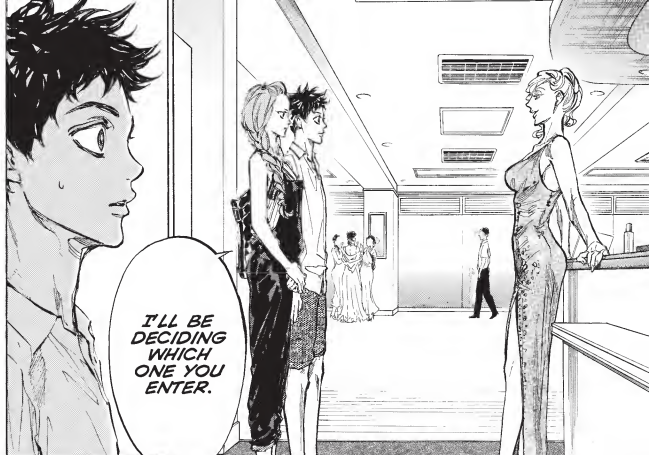


IT REQUIRES
THE STRONG
MENTALITY
OF A TRUE
COMPETITOR.

...IS PUTTING
ALL YOUR
TALENT ON
DISPLAY TO
CLAW OUT
VICTORY,
ALL WHILE
DEALING WITH
QUITE A LOT
OF PRESSURE.



*I WANT YOU TO
WIN YOUR NEXT
COMPETITION.*



I'LL BE
DECIDING
WHICH
ONE YOU
ENTER.



EVERY YEAR
AROUND
THIS TIME, I
HEAD OUT OF
TOWN FOR
A SUMMER
RESPIRE.

I LEAVE THE
SCHOOL TO MY
STAFF HERE



SCREE
180°
ち



WOULD YOU
TWO HAPPEN
TO BE
AVAILABLE
NEXT WEEK?
ALL WEEK?



ALL
RIGHT
THEN...

...



THEN OUR
LESSONS WILL
CONTINUE...



HMPH.
WHAT ABOUT
HOMEWORK?

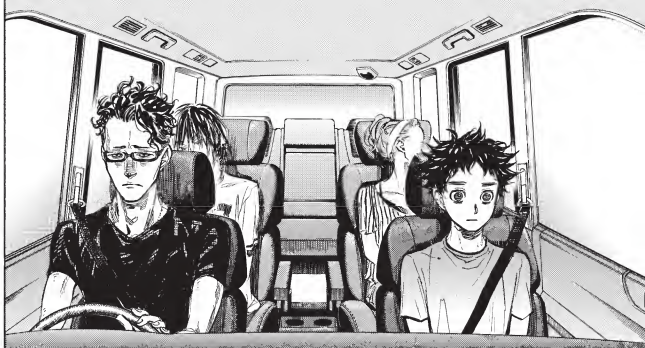
I'M
FREE

...OKAY.



?





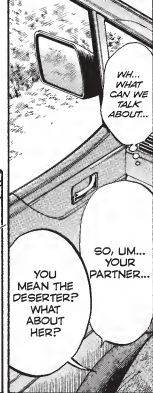


I... THINK
IDOGAWA-SAN
IS A SLENDER,
BEAUTIFUL
PERSON...

WHAT...DID
YOU CALL MY
PARTNER?



HA
HA
...SO,
UH, THE
DESERTER...



WH...
WHAT
CAN WE
TALK
ABOUT...

SO, UM...
YOUR
PARTNER...

YOU
MEAN THE
DESERTER?
WHAT
ABOUT
HER?



HUFF
HUFF

IS THAT
SO.



THE OTHER
DANCERS
LOOK LIKE
PUBIC HAIR
TO ME...



YES?!

AHEM...

...FUJITA-
KUN.



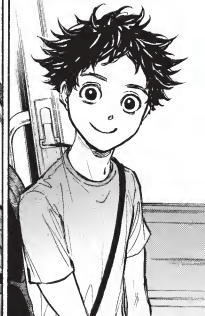
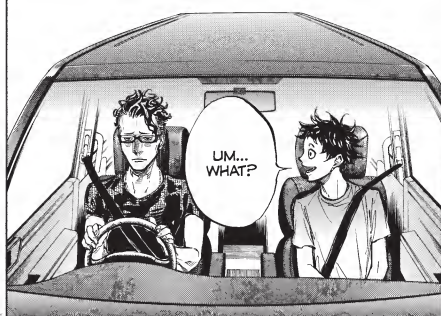
SO FOR
ME...
WHEN I'M
IN THE
ZONE...

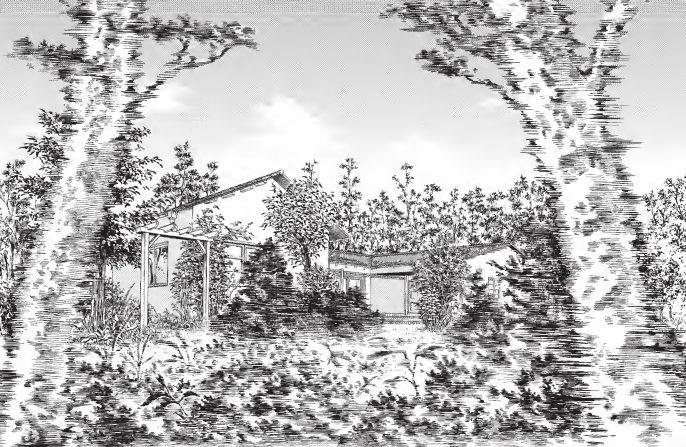
YES?!

AT THOSE
TIMES...

! YES...
MAKES
SENSE

DURING A
MATCH...
YOU KNOW
HOW
EVERYONE
IS
FOCUSED
ON THEIR
OWN
DANCE?



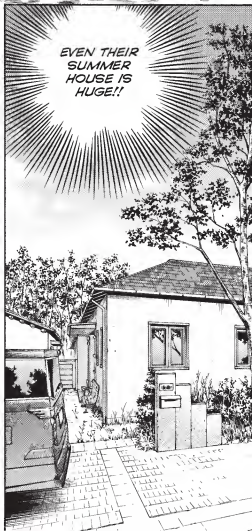


HEY,
FUJITA-
KUN!

WHERE'S
THE
STUDIO?

! I
WANNA
KNOW
TOO.

FOOD
GOES
IN THE
KITCHEN,
CLEANING
SUPPLIES
GO IN THE
STUDIO,
OKAY?



EVEN THEIR
SUMMER
HOUSE IS
HUGE!!



SINCE WE'RE
PUTTIN' YOU
UP HERE...



**GO
WEED
THE
YARD.**



SENSEI—
I'M
WORKING
HARD!

I'M
HAPPY
TO DO
IT!!

THIS IS A WAY
I CAN MAKE UP
FOR BEING SO
DISRESPECT-
FUL ABOUT THE
GRAND PRIX.

I WANT
TO BE
USEFUL...
SO SURE!



"I WANT
YOU TO WIN
YOUR NEXT
COMPETITION."

WIN IT,
HUH?



I WONDER
IF MARISA-
SENSEI
IS HERE
ALREADY...



...



BUT THE
YARD IS
SO BIG...!

NOT THAT,
AGAIN. I
FEEL SICK
JUST
TALKING
ABOUT IT.

HEY, CHII-
CHAN. D'YOU
THINK THE
TANGO WE DID
WAS A LITTLE
OFF?

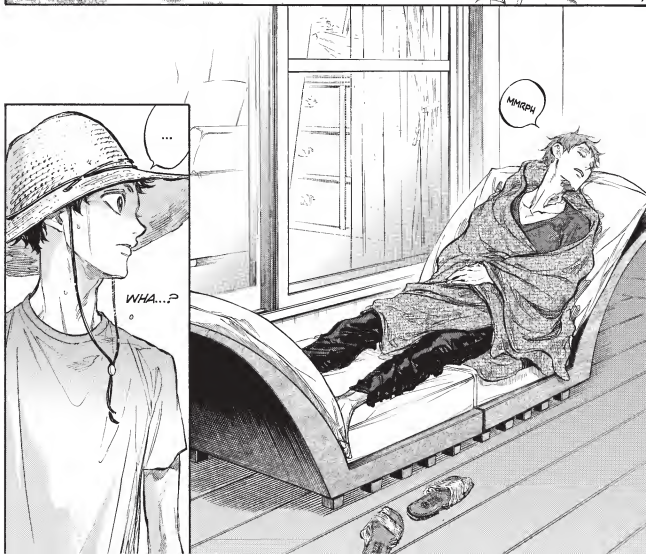
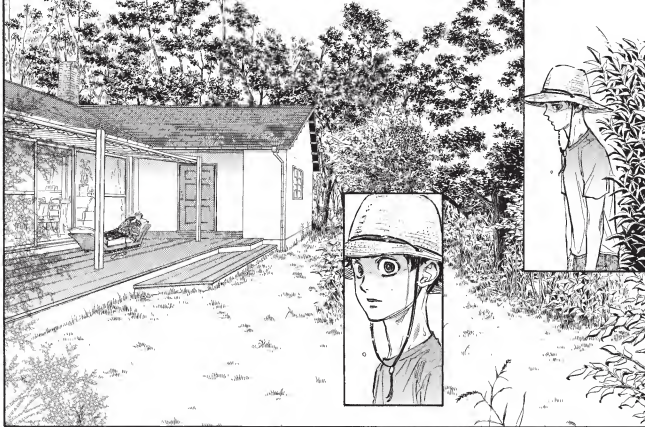
I'M NOT
EXACTLY
CONFIDENT.

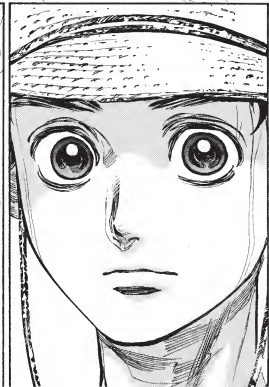
I'M
SCARED.

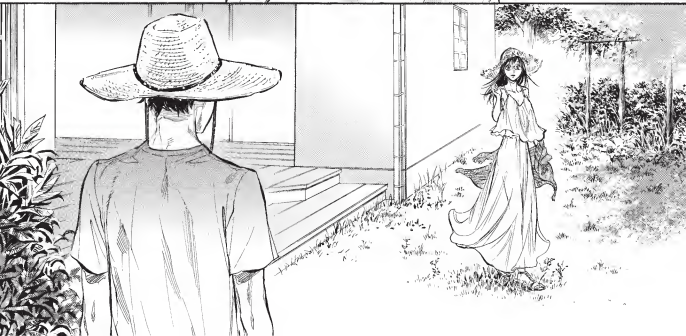
SENGOKU-
SAN, HELP
ME!

SENGOKU-
SAN!!

"I FEEL
SICK"...









SHE'S
STILL SO
GORGEOUS.

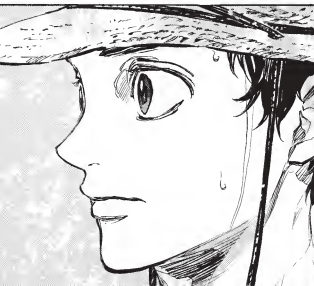
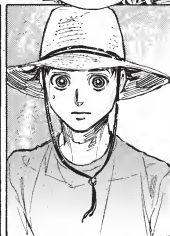
I HAVEN'T
SEEN YOU IN
SO LONG!

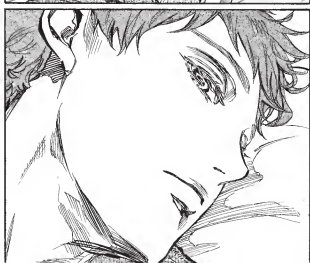
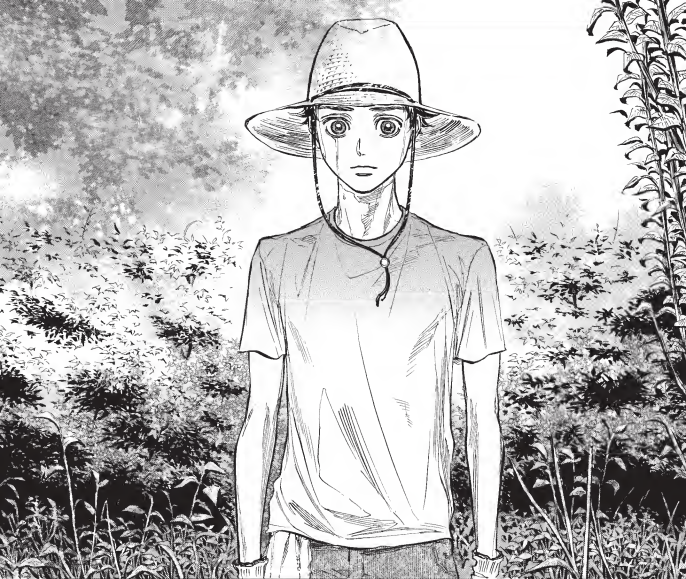


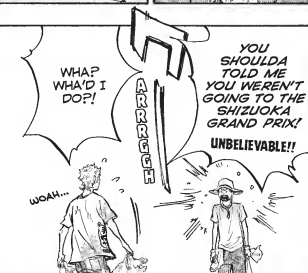
FUJITA-
KUN...?

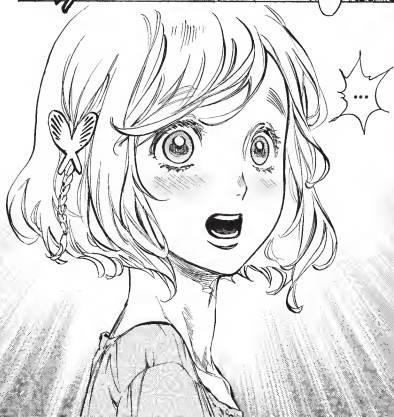


HANAOKA-
SAN...











WHEN DID YOU GET BACK FROM GERMANY?!

FOOD WAS GREAT.

YESTERDAY! WE WERE IN THE GERMAN OPEN*, THEN TOOK A NON-STOP FLIGHT BACK AND CAME STRAIGHT HERE.

TODAY WAS A LAZY DAY-I SLEPT THE WHOLE TIME!

WE SPENT THE WHOLE TIME REHASHING THE COMPETITION TOGETHER. AND THEN ALL I DID WAS EAT!

YOU WERE THERE FOR TWO WEEKS?! DON'T EAT THEN GO TO SLEEP! YOU'LL GET FAT.

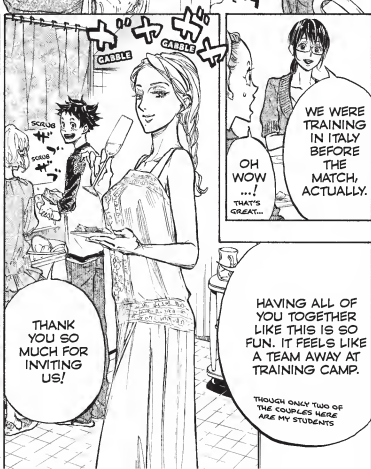


TATARA COMPLETELY EMBARRASSED US, SO WE'RE FIGHTING RIGHT NOW!

HOW WAS SHIZUOKA?



... GUESS SHE'S STILL MAD ABOUT THAT...



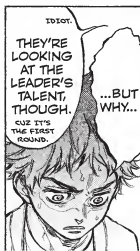
WE WERE TRAINING IN ITALY BEFORE THE MATCH, ACTUALLY.

OH WOW... THAT'S GREAT...

HAVING ALL OF YOU TOGETHER LIKE THIS IS SO FUN. IT FEELS LIKE A TEAM AWAY AT TRAINING CAMP.

THOUGH ONLY TWO OF THE COUPLES HERE ARE MY STUDENTS

*GERMAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (GOC) ... A TOP-LEVEL AMATEUR COMPETITION HELD IN GERMANY IN MID-AUGUST



ARE YOU SERIOUS...?!





MAN
...



WHEN I
DISCOVERED
MY
CONNECTION
WAS LIKE
A YOYO, I
GOT TOTALLY
NEUROTIC
ABOUT IT.

ACTUALLY,
SHIZUKU
CALLED IT A
"TRAPEZE"...

MAYBE YOU
HAD THE SAME
THING

THAT STUFF ABOUT
COUNTERBALANCE*
REALLY CHANGED
HOW I THINK
ABOUT ARGENTINE
TANGO.

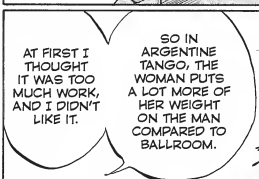
FWUMPH

WHAP!
WHAT
ARE THEY
TALKING
ABOUT?!

PEOPLE GET
THAT KINDA
SENSATION
ALLA TIME.

TOTALLY
FREAKS
YOU OUT.

*COUNTERBALANCE... THE BALANCE ONE HOLDS SO
THAT BOTH PARTIES ARE BALANCED TOGETHER.



AT FIRST I
THOUGHT
IT WAS TOO
MUCH WORK,
AND I DIDN'T
LIKE IT.

SO IN
ARGENTINE
TANGO, THE
WOMAN PUTS
A LOT MORE OF
HER WEIGHT
ON THE MAN
COMPARED TO
BALLROOM.



UM...
GUYS?

ARGENTINE...?

HOLD UP...
HOW MUCH
STUFF YOU
LEARNIN'?!
GUESS YOU QUIT
HORSEBACK RIDING
AND AEROBIC
ALREADY.





THAT'S WHAT
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT, ISN'T
IT, FUJITA?

...THAT'S
NORMAL—

WHEN THAT
HAPPENS, IF
YOU CAN GET
SOMEONE TO
YANK YOUR
SHOULDER
BLADES AWAY
FROM YOUR
RIBS...

GEEZ,
WHAT?
YOU GO
FOR THAT
PAIN?

SO LIKE IN
COMPETITIONS,
YA GET
NERVOUS OR
WHATEVER, AND
YA CAN'T REALLY
COMPRESS
YER SHOULDER
BLADES RIGHT...
THAT EVER
HAPPEN TO YA?
WHERE IT MESSES
UP YOUR HOLD?

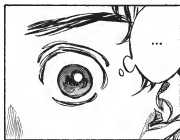
BLATHER
BLATHER
BLATHER

SO FOR
DANCERS
...



ON THE
LEVEL
THEY'RE
AT.

I
WONDER
WHAT
THESE
PEOPLE
SEE...



THE ANXIETY
I'VE BEEN
FEELING...



FOR SOMETHING
THAT MY BODY
HAD ACCEPTED
LONG BEFORE MY
MIND STARTED
TO DOUBT IT—

BECAUSE
I'D LEFT
REASON
BEHIND...

THAT WAS JUST
ME LOSING
CONFIDENCE...



*THAT
DANCE...*

*FINALLY, MY
MIND IS
CATCHING UP
TO MY BODY.*



*SURE...
THIS IS
DANCE,
AFTER
ALL.*

*MY BRAIN
JUST HAS
TO BELIEVE
WHAT MY
BODY HAS
ACCEPTED...*



*I FELT SO
AT PEACE.*



I WANT
TO DANCE
WITH CHII-
CHAN.



REALLY? YOU
TWO HAVE TO
WIN THE NEXT
MATCH YOU
GO TO?



BUT
DEPENDING
ON HIS MOOD,
TATARA'S
DANCING
CHANGES SO
SUDDENLY...

WE'VE BEEN
DANCING
THIS
ROUTINE
FOR A LONG
TIME, SO
SURE, WE'VE
GOTTEN
BETTER.

YEAH!

I TOTALLY
AGREE! IT'S
SUCH A
PAIN WHEN
THE LEADER
MAKES HIS
PARTNER
DO ALL THE
DANCING.

AND IF WE
MAKE IT TO
THE FINALS,
THEY'RE
GONNA
JUDGE OUR
COHESIVENESS
AS A COUPLE,
SO I'M
WORRIED...

FWOP

1st

Heat 32
The Bucking Horse,
Bridled

IT'S ALL
I CAN
DO TO
FOLLOW
IT.

I'VE BEEN
WITH KIOHARU
A LONG TIME,
BUT HE STILL
GIVES ME
LEADS I CAN'T
UNDERSTAND.

OH, UM...
THAT'S NOT
WHAT I
MEAN...

(NOT WITH
MY TATARA,
ANYWAY.)

IN A WAY,
THE PARTNER
SHOWS OFF
HER SKILL BY
HOW MUCH SHE
CAN EXPRESS
HERSELF
WITHIN THE
BOUNDS OF
HER LEADER'S
HOLD.

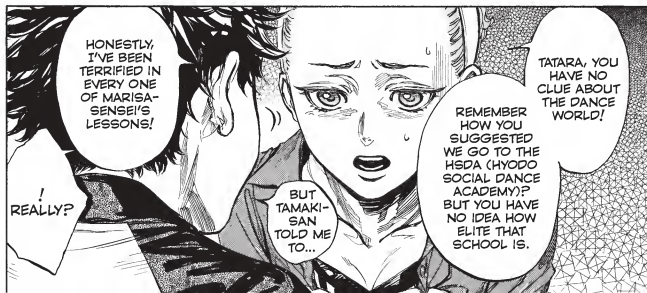
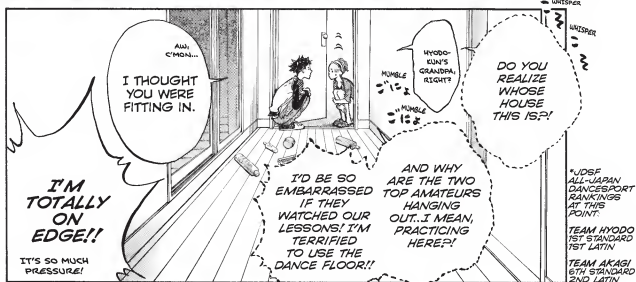
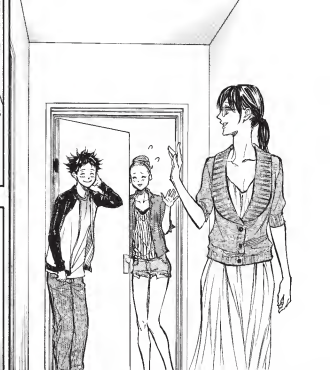
YEAH
...

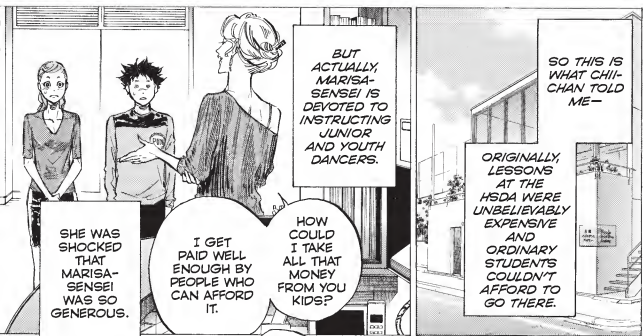
THAT'S
SO
TRUE...

11"
CLMP
!

THE PURSUIT
OF UNITY IN
A COUPLE IS
ONE OF THE
ENDURING
MOTIFS OF
DANCE, I
SUPPOSE.









I'M GOING TO
TELL YOU WHAT
COMPETITION
YOU'LL BE IN.



AS SOON
AS YOU
FINISH YOUR
FOCUSED
TRAINING
HERE...

...ON
AUGUST
25TH...

...YOU'LL
ENTER THE
TOKYO
METROPOLITAN
DANCESPORT
TOURNAMENT
LEVEL A
MATCH.

IT'S NO LONGER A RANKING COMPETITION*, SO I EXPECT THEY'VE LOWERED THE BAR FOR ENTRANTS.

USUALLY THEY HOLD THE TOURNAMENT IN THE SPRING, BUT IT'S BEHIND SCHEDULE THIS YEAR.

THE LEVEL A MATCH ...?!

UM... SENSEI...?!

*COMPETITION WHICH GRANTS ELIGIBILITY FOR THE PRINCE MIKASA CUP TO TOP-PLACING ENTRANTS.

YOU DIDN'T...

WHA...?

WHAT ...?!

AT LEVEL A... WON'T THERE BE... DANCERS AT THE SAME LEVEL AS THE GRAND PRIX...?

D-DID I HEAR YOU RIGHT?

AND YOU'LL WIN IT.

OH MAN...

WELL, MR. LEADER.

AND...

CHUCKLE
♪♪♪

I MEAN, I ONLY JUST GOT LEVEL D...

AND I JUST FOUND OUT MY REAL LIMITS AT SHIZUOKA—



WOULD
THE LEVEL
B MATCH
HAVE BEEN
BETTER?

I SUPPOSE
THERE MAY BE
A HANDFUL
OF ACTUAL
A-LEVEL
DANCERS...

WHAT?



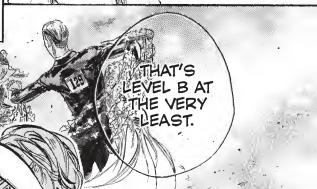
MOST OF THE
ENTRANTS
DANCING
AT LEVEL A
MATCHES ARE
BS AND CS
HOPING TO
ADVANCE TO
LEVEL A.

THEY'RE MOSTLY
ADULTS AND
COLLEGE
STUDENTS



WHAT DO YOU
THINK IT TAKES
TO GET ALL
CHECKS IN THE
FIRST ROUND
OF A GRAND
PRIX?

SHUFFLE
も
...
...



THAT'S
LEVEL B AT
THE VERY
LEAST.



WHICH MEANS
APPEARING IN A
LEVEL A MATCH
SHOULDN'T
INTIMIDATE YOU
TWO.

YES. SO YOU
HAD BETTER
WIN THIS
NEXT MATCH!

WE
WILL!

THANK YOU
SO MUCH!

!! YOU
MEAN WE
CAN GO?!

ALSO, I
ENTERED
YOU TWO
FOR THE
GRAND PRIX
IN SENDAI.

A MONTH EARLY,
AT THAT

ALL WE
DID WAS
W & T
THOUGH...

TH-
THUMP

...

AND IF YOU GET
ANYTHING LESS
THAN FIRST PLACE,
I'LL HAVE YOU
WITHDRAW.

IF YOU WIN
LIKE I ASKED
YOU TO, I'LL
LET YOU
COMPETE IN
THE GRAND
PRIX.

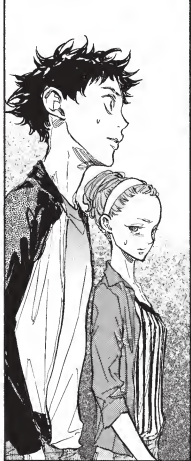
YOU CAN
COMPETE IN
THE GRANDS
PRIX NEXT
YEAR JUST AS
EASILY. WHAT
YOU NEED TO
DO FIRST IS
LEARN HOW TO
BE A WINNER
AND GAIN
CONFIDENCE
AS A
COMPETITOR.

BECAUSE
THAT'S
WHAT I'VE
DECIDED,
AS YOUR
COACH.

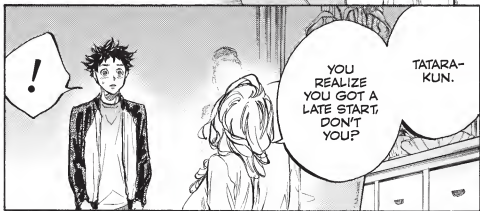
BUT...
WHY
WOULD
YOU...?!

NO MATTER
WHAT
TOURNAMENT
YOU ENTER...

WHA
...

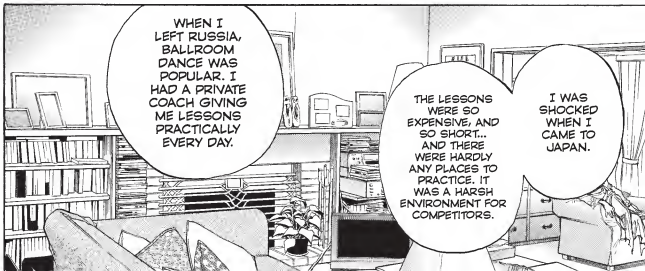


IF YOU LOSE,
THAT'S YOUR
CEILING...
AND THAT'S
NO FUN, IS
IT?



YOU
REALIZE
YOU GOT A
LATE START,
DON'T
YOU?

TATARA-
KUN.



WHEN I
LEFT RUSSIA,
BALLROOM
DANCE WAS
POPULAR. I
HAD A PRIVATE
COACH GIVING
ME LESSONS
PRACTICALLY
EVERY DAY.

THE LESSONS
WERE SO
EXPENSIVE, AND
SO SHORT...
AND THERE
WERE HARDLY
ANY PLACES TO
PRACTICE. IT
WAS A HARSH
ENVIRONMENT FOR
COMPETITORS.

I WAS
SHOCKED
WHEN I
CAME TO
JAPAN.



BUT
NOW...

I'VE FOUND A
BOY WHO STARTED
DANCE AT AGE
13, AND IN THREE
MONTHS HAS
WORKED HIS WAY
UP TO DEBUT AT A
TOURNAMENT. HE'S
ALREADY A WORLD-
CLASS DANCER.



I THINK
HE'S GOT
AN ITALIAN
(STANDARD)
AND A
RUSSIAN
(LATIN)
RIGHT
NOW.

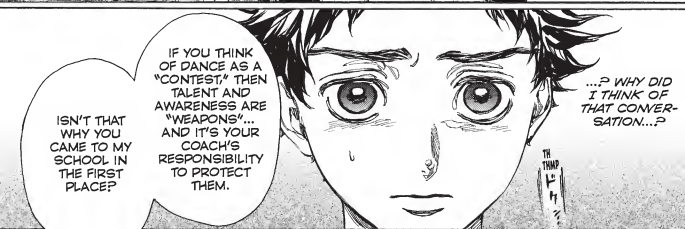
SO OF
COURSE
I LET
KIYOHARU
CHOOSE
HIS OWN
COACH.



"SOME PEOPLE
IN THEIR FIRST
YEAR OF
DANCING ARE
BETTER THAN
PEOPLE WHO'VE
BEEN DOING
IT FOR TEN
YEARS."



DO YOU
KNOW WHAT
BROUGHT
THIS BOY
IN?

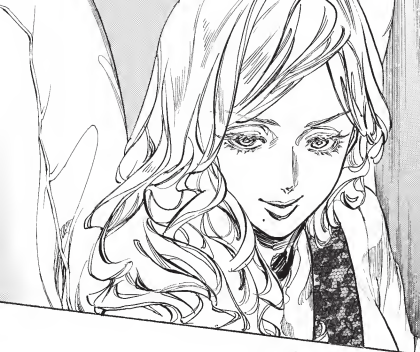


ISN'T THAT
WHY YOU
CAME TO MY
SCHOOL IN
THE FIRST
PLACE?

IF YOU THINK
OF DANCE AS A
"CONTEST," THEN
Talent AND
AWARENESS ARE
"WEAPONS"...
AND IT'S YOUR
COACH'S
RESPONSIBILITY
TO PROTECT
THEM.

...? WHY DID
I THINK OF
THAT CONVER-
SATION...?

TH
THUD
F
F



I'D LIKE YOU
TO DEVELOP
IN LINE WITH
MY PLANS
FOR A BIT. SO
THAT'S HOW
WE'RE GOING
TO PROCEED.



CRACKLE



CALL FROM
AKIIRA KOMOTO

I'M
SORRY!!

UGH...
THAT
BITCH...

BUMP
BADA

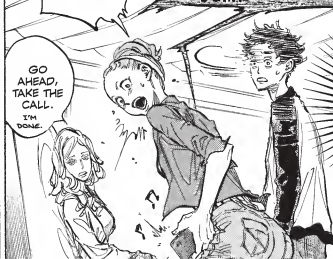


EXCUSE
ME,
MARISA-
SENSEI?

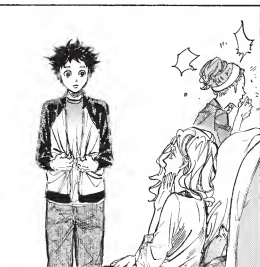
ACK! I'M
SORRY!
I'LL TURN
IT OFF!

SHING SHING SHING SHING
BUMP BADADABUMP
BUMP BADADABUMP

GO
AHEAD,
TAKE THE
CALL.
I'M
DONE.

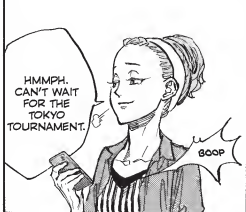


!!



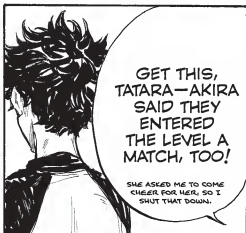


**WE ARE
GONNA
WIN. I WANNA
SEE THAT GIRL
IN TEARS.**



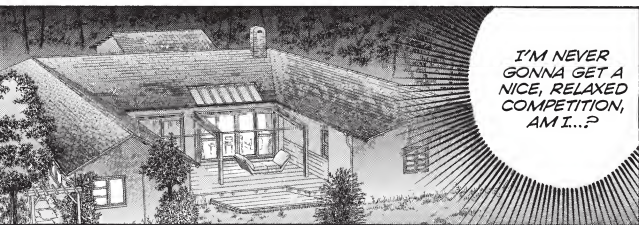
HMMPH.
CAN'T WAIT
FOR THE
TOKYO
TOURNAMENT.

BOOP



**GET THIS,
TATARA—AKIRA
SAID THEY
ENTERED
THE LEVEL A
MATCH, TOO!**

SHE ASKED ME TO COME
CHEER FOR HER, SO I
SHUT THAT DOWN.



**I'M NEVER
GONNA GET A
NICE, RELAXED
COMPETITION,
AM I...?**



FUJITA.



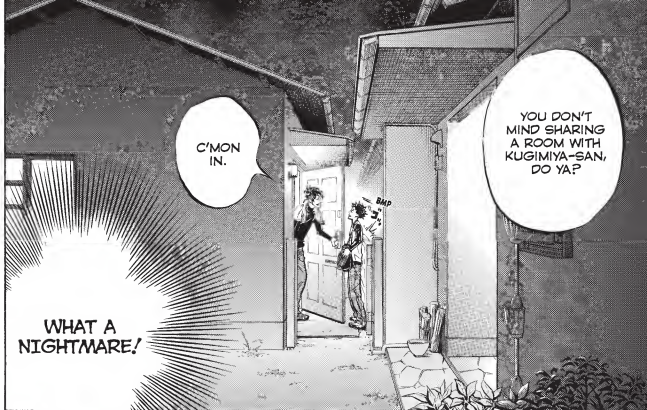
G'NIIGHT,
GAJU!

G'NIIGHT!

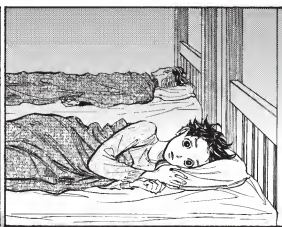
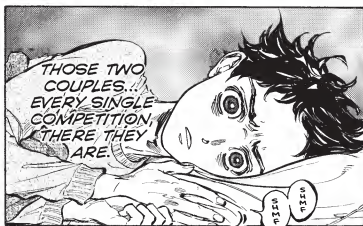


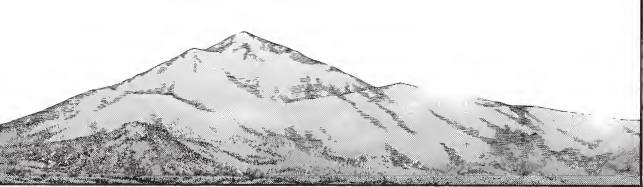
GOOD
NIGHT.

GOOD
NIGHT.



WHAT A
NIGHTMARE!





FIRST
DAY OF
TRAINING

JUST FOUND OUT
KUGIMIYA AND
IDOGAWA ARE IN
THE TOURNAMENT

...

YA DON'T
GOTTA PUSH
YERSELF TO
KEEP UP,
Y'KNOW.

WE'RE ALL
DOIN' OUR
OWN THING
TO TRAIN!

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
US! JUST
WANTED
TO SEE IF
WE COULD
DO YOUR
ROUTINE!

GOTCHA!

WHY'S
HE
GOING
THAT
WAY?!

HEY

SSSH
SSSH
SSSH
SSSH

!!

CRUN
CRUN
CRUN

I BARELY
HAVE ANY
EXPERIENCE,
SO SHE
EXPECTS A
LOT FROM
ME.

I
LEARNED
A LOT
FROM
OUR
TALK
LAST
NIGHT.



I HAD
NO IDEA
MOUNTAIN
ROADS
WERE SO
TIRING...



I SAID YA
DIDN'T HAFTA
FOLLOW ME!!

THIS IS
DANGEROUS!
GETCHA BACK
TO THE ROAD!

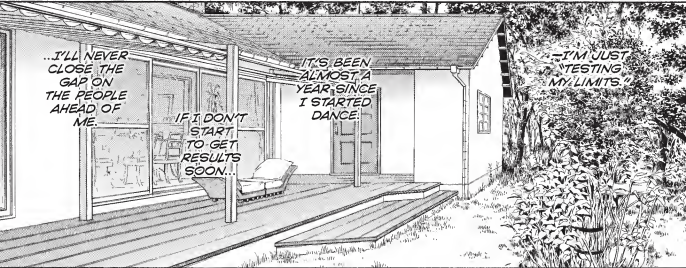


...I'LL NEVER
CLOSE THE
GAP ON
THE PEOPLE
AHEAD OF
ME.

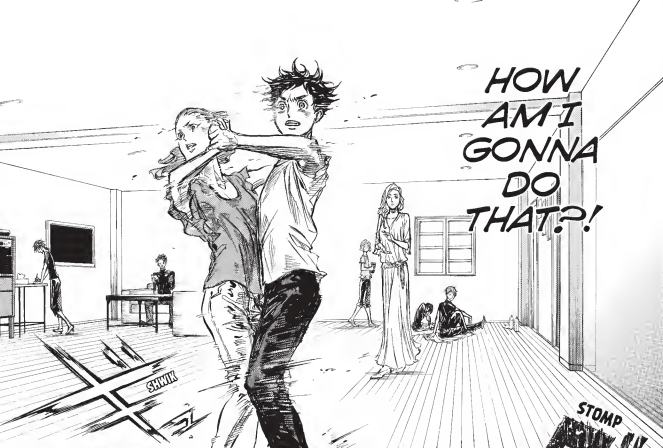
IF I DON'T
START
TO GET
RESULTS
SOON...

IT'S BEEN
ALMOST A
YEAR SINCE
I STARTED
DANCE.

...I'M JUST
TESTING
MY LIMITS.



WAIT, "CLOSE
THE GAP"...?



HOW
AM I
GONNA
DO
THAT?!



SINCE
CHINATSU-
CHAN HAS A
BIG SHAPE,
SHE HAS
A LOT OF
PRESENCE.

HIS
HOLD'S
GOTTEN
BETTER.

...THEY'RE
PRETTY
BALANCED
AS A
COUPLE,
HUH?

EVEN THOUGH
CHINATSU'S SO
HUGE.



IF
WE'RE
STILL
ALL
OUT
OF
STEP...

I
WONDER
HOW WE
LOOK
TO
THEM.



I CAN
FEEL
THEM
WATCHING
US...

NOW I
GET WHAT
CHII-CHAN
MEANT.
SO EMBARRASSING.

IT TOOK TIME,
BUT AFTER
PRACTICING
TOGETHER
I FEEL
LIKE WE'VE
GRADUALLY
STARTED
TO COME
TOGETHER AS
A COUPLE.

...LET'S START
BY EXPANDING
YOUR
FOOTWORK
REPERTOIRE,
TATARA-KUN.

DO YOU MEND
WAITING,
CHINATSU-
CHAN?

SERIOUSLY?!
YOU CAN'T
DO A
FALLAWAY?!

SHE CAN DO
JUST ABOUT
EVERYTHING

WHEN WE
FIRST TEAMED
UP, I DIDN'T
KNOW MANY
OF THE BASIC
FIGURES, SO
THAT WAS A
PROBLEM IN
OUR COUPLES'
PRACTICE.

YOU'RE
RIGHT...
I'VE BEEN
SPOILED BY
FINALISTS...

WHA...

WELL,
DON'T
YOU THINK
THE BASIC
TANGO IS A
BIT DULL?!

UH...
YES,
SENSEI!!

YES,
SENSEI!!

TATARA-
KUN! ARE
YOU COM-
FORTABLE
WITH THAT
ROUTINE?!

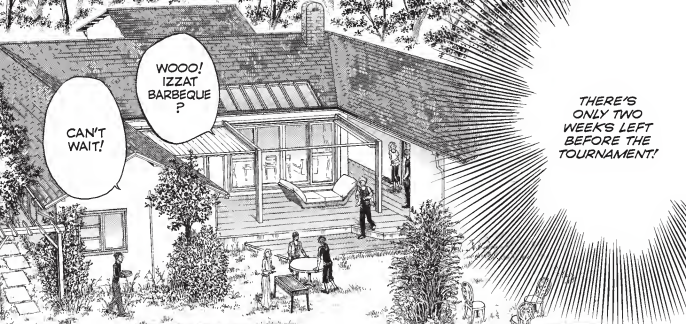
THE REALLY
SKILLED
DANCERS
HAVE THEIR
OWN SPECIAL
VARIATIONS.

"A VARIATION"
IS A CHANGE
THAT ELEVATES
A BASIC FIGURE.
THERE ARE ALL
KINDS, WITH
DIFFERENT
LEVELS OF
DIFFICULTY AND
ORIGINALITY."

DO
WHAA...P?!

LET'S
THROW
SOME
VARIATIONS
IN THERE!

BUT...
SENSEI...



WOOO!
IZZAT
BARBEQUE
?

CAN'T
WAIT!

THERE'S
ONLY TWO
WEEKS LEFT
BEFORE THE
TOURNAMENT!

THEY SAID THEY
WERE HAVING
A TOUGH
TIME STAYING
TOGETHER
ON THE NEW
PARTS.

ARE
FUJITA-
KUN AND
CHINATSU-
CHAN STILL
PRACTIC-
ING?

THERE WON'T
BE ANY MEAT
LEFT!

OH RIGHT.
THEY HAVE
TO WIN
THE NEXT
MATCH,
AFTER ALL.



SURE
ONE

YOU EAT
UP, MAKO-
CHAN! I
WANT YOU
TO GET
BIGGER!

YOU
COULD
STAND TO
FATTEN UP
A BIT TOO,
KUGIMIYA-
KUN.

* SURE ONE = WILL DO



あははは
AH HA HA HA



MUMME
ムムメ
ムムメ
ムムメ
ムムメ
ムムメ

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ムムメ

I HEARD IF THEY
DON'T PULL OUT
THE WIN AGAINST
KUGIMIYA-SAN,
THEY CAN'T GO TO
THE GRAND PRIX IN
SENDAI, NEITHER.

FER SURE.

THAT'S...
TOO
BAD FOR
FUJITA-
KUN.

HOLD IT!
YOUR
TIMING'S
DIFFERENT,
NOW!

WELL,
I KEEP
LOSING
THE
COUNT!!

BUT THAT'S
BECAUSE
YOU
STOPPED...

LOOKS LIKE
FUJITA-KUN
GOT THE
HANG OF
THE NEW
ROUTINE
FIRST.

YIKES...

NO WAY I'M
GOIN' IN
THERE

IT'S
HARD
TO KEEP
YOUR
BALANCE
IN THIS
FIGURE,
HUH...

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
WE'RE
PRACTICING
FOOTWORK
RIGHT
BEFORE A
COMPETITION.

TATARA-SAN
PICKED UP Q
REALLY FAST
TOO, WHEN
HE LEARNED
THAT.

GRR!



NEXT, WE
MOVE
BACKWARDS
IN AN
OUTSIDE
PARTNER...

THAT'S REALLY
COMMON
WITH INTUITIVE
PEOPLE. THEY
CAN JUST WATCH
SOMETHING AND
THEN GET AN
IMAGE OF IT IN
THEIR MINDS.

HE WAS REALLY EASY
TO DANCE WITH.

COME ON!
WOULD
YOU STOP
GIVING ME
ORDERS?!

HYODO AND
SENGOKU-
SAN ARE LIKE
THAT TOO,
YEAH?

HUH...



IT'S NOT
LIKE I
DON'T
LEARN
FAST...

WHY AM
I BEHIND
TATARA
ON THIS
FOOTWORK?



OH,
GOODNESS...
TROUBLE IN
PARADISE, IT
SEEMS.



CHII-
CHAN,
IT'S THE
OTHER
WAY...

**SHUT
UP!!**



WELL, THEY
CAN'T PUT
EVERYTHING ON
CHINATSU-CHAN'S
SHOULDERS
FOREVER.

HO
HO

WHAT DID
YOU DO TO
THEM?

DRILLING AND
FINE-TUNING ARE
MOST IMPORTANT
RIGHT NOW.



WHAT DO
YOU THINK
THEY NEED TO
WORK ON?

SO, KIYO-
HARU—

THEY SHOULD BE
REACHING THEIR
BREAKING POINT
SOON.

I DON'T
CARE—

TELL
ME.

... ..

...



ALSO...

...THEIR
INTERNAL
TEMPOS ARE
FUNDAMENTALLY
DIFFERENT.

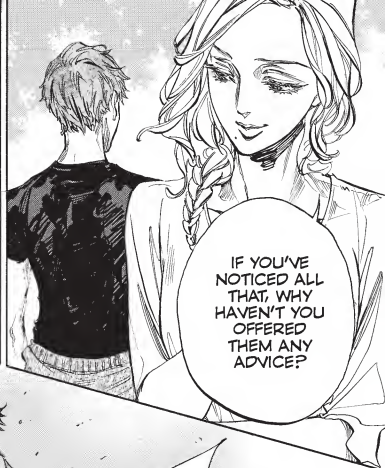
AND...

THEY EACH
MOVE A
DIFFERENT
AMOUNT.

THEY CAN'T
KEEP EACH
OTHER
BALANCED.



QUIT THAT
WEIRD
LEAD! I'LL
STAND ON
MY OWN!!



IF YOU'VE
NOTICED ALL
THAT, WHY
HAVEN'T YOU
OFFERED
THEM ANY
ADVICE?



NNGH...



ARE YOU
BEING
SARCAS-
TIC?!

IF YOU
CAN'T GET
IN STEP
WITH MY
TIMING,
THEN I'LL
FOLLOW
YOU!



WE DON'T
HAVE TIME
FOR THIS!

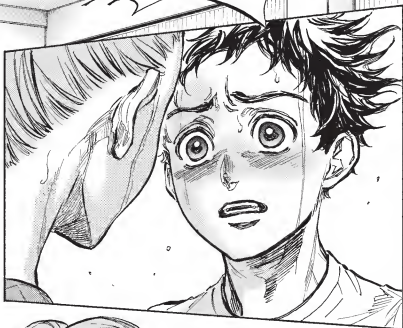


I CAN'T
FOLLOW!

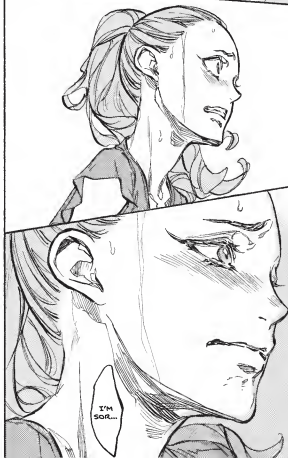
WHATEVER!
I'M NO
GOOD AT
THIS!

THE
TOURNAMENT
IS COMING
UP TOO
SOON!

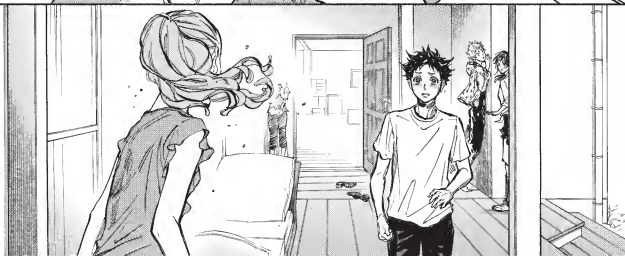
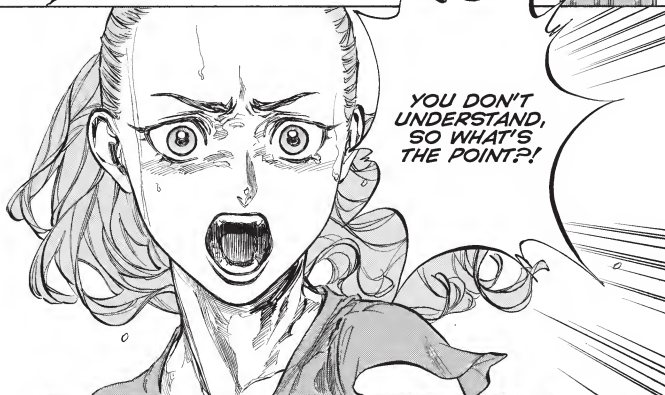
I'M WORSE
AT IT THAN
YOU, AND
YOU'RE A
BOY!

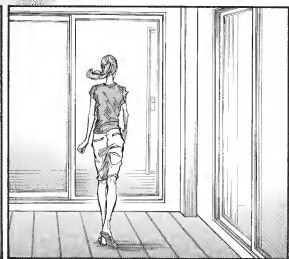
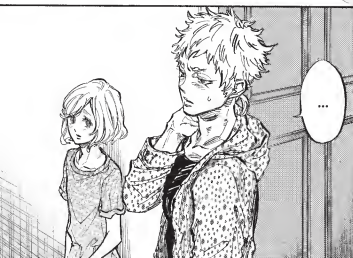


MAYBE
WE
SHOULD
STOP
COUPLES
PRACTICE
FOR A
LITTLE BIT...



I'M
SOR...







...WAS THE
LAST TIME
WE FOUGHT.

AFTER ALL,
THE DAY
OF THE
NOVICE
MATCH...



AND IT
GAVE
ME THE
FEELING
THAT
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS
WOULD
HAPPEN...



...AND WHEN
I TOLD
CHII-CHAN
I WANTED
TO GO TO
SHIZUOKA...
EVERY TIME,
SHE JUST
SAID...



WHEN WE
TALKED
ABOUT
SWITCHING
STUDIOS...



IF THAT'S
WHAT YOU
WANT.

OKAY,
TATARA.



TATARA
WANTED
TO
COMPETE,
SO HERE
WE ARE.

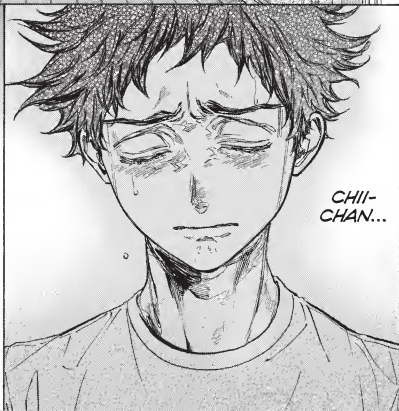
IF YOU
COULDN'T
MAKE IT
ALL THE
WAY TO THE
END, WE
SHOULDN'T
HAVE EVEN
ENTERED!!



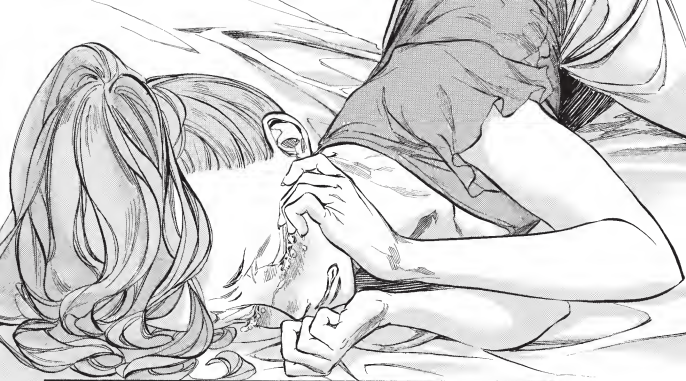
HONESTLY,
I'VE BEEN
TERRIFIED IN
EVERY ONE
OF MARISA-
SENSEI'S
LESSONS!



WHAT SHOULD
I HAVE DONE
DIFFERENTLY...?



CHII-
CHAN...



WHY IS THIS
HAPPENING...?



TATARA
MIGHT
LEAVE ME
AS HIS
PARTNER...



UZZU...



IN FRONT
OF THOSE
TWO
TEAMS...



THIS IS
HUMILIAT-
ING...

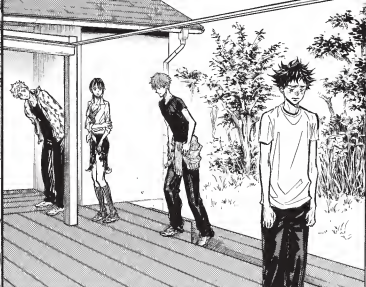
WHAT IF WE
LOSE THE
COMPETITION?...
BECAUSE OF
ME?



... TWIST...
...



...ALL YOUR
PROBLEMS
WOULD GO
AWAY.

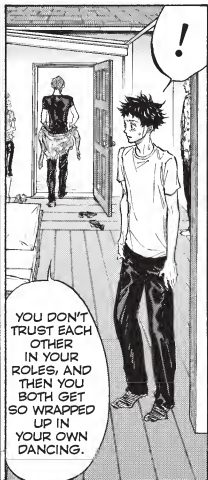


WHY DO YOU
TWO DISLIKE
EACH OTHER
SO MUCH?

AMAZING.



BUT IF YOU
REACHED
OUT JUST
A LITTLE
BIT...



YOU DON'T
TRUST EACH
OTHER
IN YOUR
ROLES, AND
THEN YOU
BOTH GET
SO WRAPPED
UP IN
YOUR OWN
DANCING.

Extra Heat

“What if We Genderswap the Leaders
and Partners?!”



WHAT IF WE GENDER SWAP THE LEADERS AND PARTNERS?!

© TOMO
TAKEUCHI

MARIO HYODO

MADAM TENJO
HANAGEISHI

AND SO...

WOO!

U
R
R
M
M.

SO.

TAKE

IS IT
OKAY IF
I DO A
GENDER
SWAP?



HANAOKA-SAN
HAD TURNED
INTO A BOY.

HEY THERE,
FUJITA-KUN.
PRACTICIN'
AGAIN
TODAY? I'M
IMPRESSED!
(SAID NICELY)

ONE DAY,
WHEN
I WENT
TO THE
STUDIO...

(LIGHT, PINK)

SHIZUO HANAOKA
HOBBIES: MUSCLE
TRAINING

BACK AWAY
あはずき

!!

SPARKLE

WHO'S
THAT?!

KIYOMI
HYODO
(NO PANTIES)

SORRY,
I LOVE
SLEEPIN'
IN.

BUT WAIT...
EVEN HYODO-
KUN'S
PERSONALITY
CHANGED....!

BUT WAIT...
KIYOMI!!

C'MON!

GET UP,
KIYOMI-
KUN!

IT'S TIME TO
PRACTICE!



SHE'S A
PERFECT
MASH-UP!!

(NOT SO BAD
THIS WAY.)

SQUIRM...
もじ...

Y'WANNA
DANCE?

TATARA-
SANP
(SAID WITH
AN ACCENT)

UM...
ER...

TH-
THMP

M
MAKO-
CHAN?

GLP

日本

SHIRT: JAPAN

エレ

エレ

LET'S
START
YOUR
LESSON.
♡

I HAVE NO
IDEA WHO
ANYONE IS
ANYMORE!!

SHUDDER

SHUDDER

A new series from the creator of *Soul Eater*, the megahit manga and anime seen on Toonami!

"Fun and lively... a great start!"

-Adventures in Poor Taste

FIRE FORCE

By Atsushi Ohkubo

The city of Tokyo is plagued by a deadly phenomenon: spontaneous human combustion! Luckily, a special team is there to quench the inferno: The Fire Force! The fire soldiers at Special Fire Cathedral 8 are about to get a unique addition. Enter Shinra, a boy who possesses the power to run at the speed of a rocket, leaving behind the famous "devil's footprints" (and destroying his shoes in the process). Can Shinra and his colleagues discover the source of this strange epidemic before the city burns to ashes?

The award-winning manga about what happens inside you!

“Far more entertaining than it ought to be... what kid doesn't want to think that every time they sneeze a torpedo shoots out their nose?”

—Anime News Network



Strep throat! Hay fever! Influenza! The world is a dangerous place for a red blood cell just trying to get her deliveries finished. Fortunately, she's not alone...she's got a whole human body's worth of cells ready to help out! The mysterious white blood cells, the buff and brash killer T cells, even the cute little platelets—everyone's got to come together if they want to keep you healthy!

Cells at Work!

はたらく細胞



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*New action series from Hiroyuki Takei, creator of
the classic shonen franchise Shaman King!*

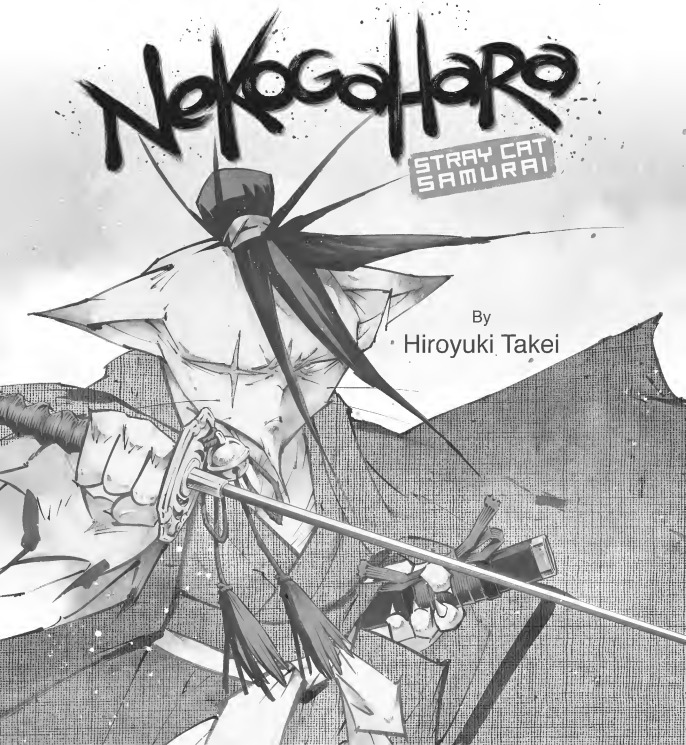
In medieval Japan, a bell hanging on the collar is a sign that a cat has a master. Norachiyo's bell hangs from his katana sheath, but he is nonetheless a stray — a ronin. This one-eyed cat samurai travels across a dishonest world, cutting through pretense and deception with his blade.

NekoGallaro

STRAY CAT
SAMURAI

By

Hiroyuki Takei



Japan's most
powerful spirit
medium delves
into the ghost
world's greatest
mysteries!

Story by Kyo
Shirodaira, famed
author of mystery
fiction and creator of
Spiral, *Blast of Tempest*,
and *The Record of a
Fallen Vampire*.



Both touched by spirits called yōkai, Kotoko and Kurō have gained unique superhuman powers. But to gain her powers Kotoko has given up an eye and a leg, and Kurō's personal life is in shambles. So when Kotoko suggests they team up to deal with renegades from the spirit world, Kurō doesn't have many other choices, but Kotoko might just have a few ulterior motives...

IN/SPECTRE

STORY BY KYO SHIRODAIRA
ART BY CHASHIBA KATASE

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Welcome to the Ballroom 7

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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